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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 67

THURSDAY MARCH 19, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should the NMC
board reconsider
and reinstate Agnes
McPhetres as a
regent?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

State Honors

Executed 30 years ago, the body of Afghanistan President Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan returned to the palace where he met his death.

ASIA...Page 15



Confrontation

The woman who bore seven children through incest and was locked in a squalid dungeon for 24 years has confronted her father.

WORLD...Page 16



Innocent Plea

Singer Amy Winehouse has pleaded innocent to assaulting a fan at a party last year.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

'Don't limit fishing to 10 miles around FDM' PAGE 3

Human bones recovered in Marpi. PAGE 5

US Census: NMI business sales drop 28 percent in 2007

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI businesses posted sales of only \$1.3 billion in 2007, a 28-percent drop from the 2002 level of \$1.8 billion due to

garment factory closures since 2005, the continuous decrease in tourist arrivals, and a general downturn in the economy.

These are based on the 2007 Economic Census of the CNMI released yesterday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

CENSUS SNAPSHOT

- \$1.3 billion in sales
- 1,191 businesses
- 22,622 employees
- \$246.1 million annual payroll

With the ongoing global and local economic crises and the complete demise of the garment industry, current business sales are expected to be much less.

Just the same, comparing the 2007
See US on Page 4

Govt furloughs to begin soon

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration is giving government departments heads until the end of the week to prepare a list of employees that could be furloughed.

Once the lists are prepared, the affected employees will be given a 30-day notice, Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration, said yesterday.

Although she is not able to estimate

how many people will lose their jobs, she said the cuts would focus on non-essential positions.

The administration is calculating the impact of the new \$156.76 million Fiscal Year 2009 budget law and expects furloughs will need to take place. Last

See GOVT on Page 4

"We realize it will not be business as usual, but if we can keep some sort of service open to the community, we will."

—Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration



Stanley questions authenticity of WASC letter

RELATED NEWS

- OPA urged to re-investigate 'unresolved' issues at NMC. PAGE 6

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An unsigned letter from Western Association of Schools and Colleges president Dr. Barbara A. Beno was questioned by a lawmaker during a recent House session, saying the document is "another fabricated material to discredit" the Northern Marianas College.



Torres

Rep. Stanley Torres, in a privilege speech, showed the letter addressed to Board of Regents chair Charles V.

See STANLEY on Page 4



A PATHWAY IN KAGMAN, FINALLY

From left, Rep. Edward T. Salas, Rep. Rosemond Santos (partly hidden), Kagman Komunitat Association president Jesse Torres, Justo Quitugua, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, an unidentified individual, Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and Fr. Manny Corcuera shovel the dirt to highlight yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony for the \$148,155.97 Lau Lau Pathway (Phase 1) project in Kagman. See story on Page 2.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos: Revenue estimate could drop by \$5M more

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The projected local revenue for Fiscal 2009 could be reduced by another \$5 million, Finance Sec-

retary Eloy Inos said yesterday.

Inos has already adjusted the collection numbers once before. In December, the Legislature passed a \$165.4 million budget (\$156.7 million from local rev-

enue), but Gov. Benigno Fitial vetoed that bill, citing a drop of \$8.7 million in projected revenue. The Legislature then passed a revised budget of \$156.76 million

See INOS on Page 4



Inos

Local

\$148K Lau Lau pathway project begins construction



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jesse Torres, left, president of the Kagman Komunitat Association, addresses the crowd during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lau Lau Bay Pathway (Phase 1) project in Kagman yesterday morning. Also in photo are, front row seated from left, Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong, Rep. Rosemond Santos, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Second row from left, Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat, Fr. Manny Corcuera, and Rep. Edward T. Salas.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Construction of the \$148,155.97 Lau Lau pathway (Phase 1) project in Kagman began yesterday with a well-attended groundbreaking ceremony, but the Kagman Komunitat Association hopes that other concerns will also be addressed soon, including sewage woes, road pavements, illegal dumping and the abolition of poker parlors in the village.

"Thank you everyone for coming up all the way to Kagman [for the groundbreaking

ceremony]," said Kagman Komunitat Association president Jesse Torres as he talked about the importance of the concrete pathway to the village.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Torres and other government officials at the ceremony spoke of the project's role in helping individuals, couples, children and families stay healthy and fit by providing a pathway to walk on, jog, exercise or simply enjoy the outdoors.

"This pathway will provide more opportunities for Kagman residents, particularly the nearby homestead residents, to develop a greater sense of community in this area," the governor said.

The pathway project, Fitial said, is also "a small but meaningful form of destination enhancement for our islands."

"In other words, this will be good for our tourists and visitors as well, especially when you consider the enormous improvements at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort. Tourists staying at the golf resort will be able to make use of this pathway and interact with our local residents, promoting cultural exchanges and the warm hospitality of our local residents," he said.

Fastest growing community

Kagman is one of the fastest growing communities in the CNMI, with a population now estimated at 5,000.

In recent period, Kagman has seen many new businesses putting up branches in the village, including Joeten Supermaket, the Post Office, Western Union, Hardt Eye Clinic and automated teller machines by First Hawaiian Bank and Bank of Guam, said Torres.

Torres said the Kagman Komunitat Association also recently wrote a letter to McDonald's and J's Restaurant, inviting them to open stores in Kagman.

July completion

The Department of Public Works awarded the \$148,155.97 contract to RPM Construction for the project, which involves the construction of a 5-foot wide concrete pathway extending up to 360 linear feet, and the installation of pavement markings and signs and pedestrian crosswalks. It also includes the Department of Public Safety's Fire Station driveway enhancement and a concrete drainage system.

RPM Construction has until July 9 to complete the project.

Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong said this is only the first of DPW projects to begin construction this year. DPW's Technical Services Division provided the project's architectural and engineering design.

"This project is very significant to the Kagman community, and we want to see it move forward and completed on time. We're happy with this project because it will provide people a place to walk on or exercise," Songsong said.

Rep. Edward T. Salas said the pathway construction is a project he followed up since he first came into office.

"I am very happy that it is now a reality. It is another venue the residents of Kagman and visitors can utilize to walk, jog or just exercise to improve their physical being. Instead of driving downtown, the residents of Precinct 5 can now enjoy a sidewalk that is safe to use for their exercises," he said.

Speakers and guests at the ceremony also thanked Rep. Justo Quitugua, Rep. Rosemond Santos and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for securing funding for the project through Saipan Local Law 15-11, as well as Saipan Lau Lau Bay Golf Resort, the Kagman Komunitat Association, DPW, and RPM Construction in making the project a reality.

Civilians help stop brush fire from hitting power pole, store

Civilians assisted police officers and firefighters in preventing a bush fire from burning down a power pole and spreading to a store in Finasisu yesterday afternoon.

Saipan Tribune learned that the fire lit up the bushes in a vacant lot along the side of Tun Joaquin Doi Road.

Witnesses said the fire of still unknown cause started near the base of a power pole at a bushy lot at 2:40pm.

Ariel Villanueva said he was driving his car when he saw fire near the power pole so he parked at the Finasisu Market and dialed 911.

Villanueva said police offi-

cers immediately arrived then later two fire trucks responded.

He said while waiting for fire trucks, a police officer tried to stop the fire from spreading to the utility pole.

Villanueva and five other people took buckets of water to prevent the blaze from spreading to the nearby generator room and stock room of the Finasisu Market.

Firefighters arrived and joined the civilians and police officers in extinguishing the fire.

A witness suspected that somebody could have thrown a lighted cigarette near the power pole and this ignited the fire. (Ferdie de la Torre)

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2009

"CREATING COMMUNITIES OF THE FUTURE"



TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009 - ROTA

Traumatic Brain Injury 101

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: As Paris (ROTA)
Time: 8:30am - 10:00am

Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: As Paris (ROTA)
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Behavioralist: "Questions & Answers"

Facilitator: Lynn Corella, Behavior Specialist, Public School system
Venue: As Paris (ROTA)
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2009 - ROTA

Sensitivity Training for Housing Authority Officials/Landlords & Transportation Service Providers

Presenter: Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: TBA (ROTA)
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009 - TINIAN

Sensitivity Training for Housing Authority Officials/Landlords & Transportation Service Providers

Presenter: Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: TBA (TINIAN)
Time: TBA

Traumatic Brain Injury 101

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 8:30am - 9:45am

Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Speech Language

Conducted by: Laura Bucknel, Speech Pathologist, Public School System
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Behavioralist: "Questions & Answers"

Conducted by: Lynn Corella, Behavior Specialist, Public School System
Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)
Time: 2:15pm - 3:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

Classroom Observation - Observe school programs for students with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities and make recommendations about instruction, behavior management and curriculum.
Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue(s): CNMI Public School System (SAIPAN)
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Meet the Families - Conduct consultation to families of children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities and provide suggestions and strategies to families.
Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

Welcoming Remarks By Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Time: 8:00am - 8:15am

An Overview of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network "Tri-Agency"

David Attao, Director, Northern Marianas College-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:15am - 9:15am

Meet Your Service Providers/Exhibitors

PANELISTS: Public School Systems, Special Education, Social Security Office, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid, Workforce Investment Agency, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Keynote Address by Kent R. Logan, Ph.D. Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Time: 1:00pm - 1:30pm

"Characteristics of Autism and Strategies for Teaching Skills and Managing Problem Behavior"

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D. Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

Self-Advocacy - "Everyone Should Be An Advocate"
Presenter: Jim Rayphand, Director, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:00am - 9:00am

Family Panel Discussion: Parents & Consumers "How did I get where I am today?"

This panel discussion will involve first-hand testimonies on the lives, the struggles, the hopes and dreams and the successes of our consumers.
Facilitators: CDD Staff/Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 9:15am - 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am - 12:45pm

Directions/Guidelines for Concurrent Sessions
Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Session A: Parents With Children With Complex Physical and/or Multiple Disabilities: "Helping My Child Get A Great Start In Learning Language, Communicating, and Playing."

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort/BallRoom A
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Session B: "Integrated Programming for Children with Autism - A Preschool Program that Works."

Presenter: Mark Staal & Jerry Diaz, Special Teachers, Public School System
Venue: Saipan World Resort/BallRoom B
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Session C: Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP
Venue: Saipan World Resort/TagaRoom
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Session D: Everyone Should Be an Advocate - Challenge Masters/R.O.P.E.S.

Presenter: Thomas Thornburgh & Greg Borja, Projects Specialists, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort/Lilac Room
Time: 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Parents with Older Kids Who Are Thinking and Worrying About Transition: "Preparing My Child For Everyday Living"

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009

Award Ceremony

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Lilac Room
Time: 9am-11:30am (R.S.V.P.)

Public School System- HeadStart Teachers Training

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room
Time: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Public School Systems, Special Education Teachers Training

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room
Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009

Autism Society - Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia
Venue: TBA
Time: TBA



Event is Sponsored by the following, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; FS 360 Project; AT Project, Public School system, UCEDD and in collaboration with support and training by NMPASI

AS COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 31

DLNR to Navy: Don't limit fishing to 10 miles around FDM

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has asked the U.S. Navy not to increase the restricted area from 3 to 10 nautical miles around the Farallon de Mendinilla because it will drastically limit fishing activities in the area known for its abundance of fish.

FDM is the only U.S.-controlled live air-to-ground range in the Western Pacific.

DLNR secretary Ignacio Dela Cruz is among only a few who submitted comments to the U.S. Navy's over 1,400-page study on the potential environmental impact of increased military activities in training areas known as the Mariana Islands Range Complex or MIRC.

The U.S. Navy extended the comment period until March 31, from the original deadline of March 16.

MIRC is the training and testing range complex that includes land, air and sea areas on and around Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan and FDM.

Fish and Wildlife director Sylvan Igisomar, in a separate comment on the draft study, raised one of their major concerns which is the military's potential usage of leaseback/leased lands on Tinian for a temporary or permanent train-

ing installment and the possible increase in brown tree snakes, among other invasive species.

"The movement of vessels (aircraft and marine) and associated cargo from the island of Guam to Tinian would increase the risk of invasive species introductions, namely the brown tree snake, to Tinian if appropriate measures are not considered," Igisomar said.

He said the Division of Fish and Wildlife looks forward to reviewing the U.S. Department of Defense's brown tree snake interdiction plan, which is currently being developed.

Igisomar also assured Defense of DFW's willingness to work cooperatively in addressing needs and issues pertaining to the preservation and maintenance of natural resources.

Danger zone or fishing zone?

Dela Cruz said DLNR is very concerned about the proposed danger zone as provided in executive summaries 11 and 12.

He said within the proposed 10-nautical mile danger zone is the best fishing grounds, and restricting activities in this area will negatively impact the livelihood of 65 to 75 fishermen, Dela Cruz said.

"We are opposed to that restriction because it's the best fishing ground in the CNMI and the one closest to Saipan and Tinian. With

ON THE NET

Draft study: <http://www.marianasrangecomplexeis.com/otherresources.aspx>

CONTACT INFO

Comments on the draft MIRC EIS/OES should be sent to:
Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
ATTN: EV2
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134
E-mail: marianas.tap.eis@navy.mil
Online: www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com

fuel prices so high, fisherman cannot afford to buy more fuel to go out farther to fish. It's going to place a burden on our fishermen," Dela Cruz told Saipan Tribune.

In a recent public hearing on Saipan, only a few individuals showed up to learn more or voice out their concerns about the draft MIRC environmental impact statement/overseas environmental impact statement.

MIRC is used to support tactical training by the U.S. military services, including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army Reserves, and National Guard, in the Western Pacific Theater.

The draft MIRC EIS/OES states that "no significant impacts are identified for any resource area in any geographic location within the MIRC study area that cannot be mitigated, with the exception of exposure of marine

mammals to underwater sound."

Under the draft report, the following three alternatives are refined and analyzed:

■ The No Action Alternative is comprised of baseline operations and support of existing range capabilities.

■ Alternative 1 is comprised of the No Action Alternative plus additional operations on upgraded/modernized existing ranges.

■ Alternative 2 is comprised of Alternative 1 plus new ranges, new dedicated capabilities, additional increased tempo (beyond Alternative 1) to optimize training in support of future contingencies.

A copy of the draft study can be accessed online at <http://www.marianasrangecomplexeis.com/otherresources.aspx>.

Comments on the draft MIRC

EIS/OES should be sent to:

Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS

258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100

ATTN: EV2

Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-

3134

E-mail: marianas.tap.eis@navy.mil

navy.mil

Online: www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com

This document is different

from the Guam and CNMI Marine Relocation EIS/OEIS for the relocation of Marine forces from Okinawa to Guam, which has been estimated to cost as much as \$15 billion. The relocation EIS/OEIS is still being worked on.

However, there will be overlap between the two EIS/OEIS in the area of increased use of existing military ranges as a result of the pending relocation.

NOTICE

Tan Goru
SNACK BAR

will be closed on **March 19, 2009**

due to funeral service of

Verena Marie Tudela Cabrera

Thank You

happy easter

**Easter Brunch**

Sunday, April 12, 2009
at fresko restaurant
11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

\$30.00 adult & \$15.00 child

FREE for children ages
5 years old & below

Access to Pool included
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GOVT

From Page 1

week, the Legislature successfully overrode Gov. Benigno Fitial’s veto. After the override, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said the new budget would force possibly thousands of layoffs or could shut the government down as early as July.

Civil service employees will not be affected, Fleming said. Rather employees within the Governor’s Office

and the various mayors’ offices will feel the impact.

“Those are the ones that will be heavily affected,” she added. She has yet to notify the Legislature and Judiciary branches, although they will need to make the same necessary furloughs.

Fleming said her office has been discussing with Fitial and Inos the possibility that once the budget ceiling is reached, departments might have to shut down.

“There’s that greater possibility that they will close, or we will limit the ser-

vices. It’s not business as usual as we would like it to be,” Fleming said.

She has asked all department secretaries to look at the positions that are needed to keep offices open at a bare minimum.

“We realize it will not be business as usual, but if we can keep some sort of service open to the community, we will,” she added.

The priority will be sustaining the Department of Public Health, the Public School System, the Department of Corrections and the Department of

Public Safety.

The administration has been pushing the Legislature to pass austerity measures, saying that without them the government will continue to overspend. In February, Rep. Victor Hocog introduced a bill prepared by the administration to enact austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays. The measure was expected to save \$8 million to \$9 million, but several of the proposed dates have passed and another one comes up tomorrow. The bill could be discussed in the House of Repre-

sentatives next week.

Fleming said they are still trying to calculate how much money reducing the retirement benefit from 18 to 11 percent will save. That was one of the provisions included in the budget law that the administration had called for.

But the austerity measures are still needed, she said.

“That would have really helped us a lot on top of bringing down the retirement benefit,” she said.

“We’re going to be seeking the same thing in 2010,” she added.

INOS

From Page 1

(\$148.1 million from local revenue), but Fitial vetoed that as well. Last week, the Legislature overrode the veto and the budget is now law.

But there are two resources that are questionable, Inos said.

Extraordinary items

The budget includes \$4 .1 million in interest from the Marianas Public Land Trust received from the Northern Marianas House Corp. and \$1 million from the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission for an advanced payment it received in the 1990s.

“The \$148 million includes two extraordinary items,” Inos said. “By extraordinary I mean it’s not supposed to be recurring. It’s a one-shot deal. If we collect that in this current year, we do not expect to collect that in subsequent years,” he said, adding that the FY 2010 budget would have to reflect that.

The Legislature had enacted a law that allowed MPLT to keep the money rather than it being collected in the general funds, he said.

“But maybe it was a blessing that we didn’t receive that, because if we received that money we might have spent it already,” Inos said.

Doubtful collection

Finance has been discussing the matter

with the MPLT since the beginning of the fiscal year, but he said additional action might be needed.

“We’ve been talking with MPLT since early in FY 2009, but what we need is hopefully a legislation that would request the MPLT to return that money,” the Secretary said.

Rep. Ray Yumul, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, met with Inos Tuesday about budget matters. Yumul said he had brought up the fact in the past that collecting the revenue from the MPLT and the Gaming Commission were “doubtful at best.”

He said he is now speaking with the Legislature’s legal counsel to see what Inos can do to compel the MPLT and Gaming Commission to pay the funds.

The \$4.1 million in MPLT funds has been included in previous budgets as well. It was included in the FY 2008 budget, but was never received. It was placed again on the FY 2009 original budget estimate, along with the Gaming Commission funds; \$1 million for the 1 percent fee agencies must pay the Office of the Public Auditor, and \$2.575 million for past OPA fees that went unpaid.

However, the revised estimated revenue projections that Finance submitted after Fitial vetoed the first budget does not include the \$2.575 million for prior OPA fees.

Supplemental budget

The Legislature could prepare a sup-

plemental budget that would reduce certain entities, although that idea has not been discussed fully, Yumul said.

Inos said he is doubtful the \$1 million from the Tinian Gaming Commission will be collected because of the slow activity at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

“We understand the situation, so we will try to see if we can work something out. But my outlook right now is that the possibility of receiving that is quite remote at this time,” he said.

He added that if the money is not collected this year, the Finance Department would try again next year.

Both Inos and Yumul said if the \$5 million is not collected, government departments will be affected adversely.

STANLEY

From Page 1

Cepeda dated Feb. 26.

“I found this letter...and it leads me to believe and suspect that it is a doctored letter to embarrass the chairman and all NMC Board of Regents that they cannot learn how to function despite the trainings about the standards of accreditation and should better seek other forms of public service other than sitting on the NMC Board as regents,” said Torres.

The lawmaker said that NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez may have had a hand in the distribution of the letter, a copy of which Torres said he got from House Education Committee chair Rep. Ralph Torres.

He plans to personally ask the

WASC official to determine the validity of the letter.

Authentic

Cepeda explained yesterday that the letter was truly sent to him by Beno. However, since the first letter was an electronic copy, it didn’t show the official’s signature, he said. Due to this technical reason, the official sent a new one bearing her name.

“That letter was genuine and originated from Dr. Beno. The first copy sent through electronic [mail] didn’t show her signature, hence the reason she sent another one,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In the three-page letter, Beno indicated that the correspondence was a response to Cepeda’s earlier message asking for guidance on the college’s accreditation requirements.

The Legislature’s participation and

“meddling” in the college’s operation was among the topics addressed in the letter.

‘Inappropriate behavior’

Beno’s letter indicated that Cepeda had sought the commission’s guidance in addressing the “misbehavior” of some regents.

“The commission standards clearly state the responsibilities of the governing board. The behaviors you have described of board participation in attempts to contact the Legislature about college matters, and in discussions with employees about personnel matters, as well as general discussions which undermine the ability of the college president to lead and the college to function effectively are not appropriate,” Beno’s letter stated, adding that Standard IV.B.1 describes in detail the standards

for behavior and responsibilities of governing boards.

Beno said regents should not be introducing or attempting to introduce legislative pressure into the operations of NMC.

“If governing board members discuss the evaluation of the president outside of the formal evaluation procedures, if they participate in such harmful activity as distributing anonymous complaints or asking the president to be responsive to such anonymous complaints...they are failing to provide adequate delegation of responsibility and authority to the president and they are failing to provide fair evaluation and guidance to the president,” she said.

Other forms of service

Beno said the commission has trained the regents several times the past few years

and the NMC board has had access to almost annual accreditation training.

“The commission is concerned that despite ample training, the governing board of NMC or some members of it cannot seem to learn how to function effectively. Perhaps those governing members who cannot adhere to the standards despite the specific training given to them are better suited to forms of public service other than service on the governing board of an accredited college,” Beno said, adding that it appears from the chair’s descriptions that some regents may be acting in a manner that is detrimental to the institution’s ability to meet its accreditation challenges.

“The college is already in serious jeopardy; governing board misbehavior can only add to the institution’s difficulties,” Beno added.

US

From Page 1

data with the 2002 economic census provides the public with a more meaningful look at the changes that have occurred between the two periods.

From 1,276 businesses in 2002 accounting for more than \$1.8 billion in sales, the CNMI had only 1,191 businesses in 2007 with only \$1.3 billion in sales.

The number of individuals employed by businesses also went down by 31 percent—from 32,790 in 2002 to only 22,622.

Annual payroll also dropped by 35 percent from \$381.6 million in 2002 to only \$246.1 million in 2007.

In 2007, the Northern Marianas had 200 businesses with 20 or more employees, representing 17 percent of all businesses. These businesses accounted for 67 percent or \$866 million of total sales.

The 2007 Economic Census for the CNMI—which includes the number of establishments, sales, payroll, number of employees and

other items—is the first data to be released for the U.S. island areas.

The 14-island CNMI, a U.S. territory in the western Pacific Ocean, had an estimated population of 86,616 in 2008.

Data for Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico will follow between May 2009 and September 2010.

More information about the Economic Census of Island Areas is available at www.census.gov/csd/ia/index.html.

Substantial changes

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the CNMI government and the CNMI economy have experienced substantial changes since 2007, as reflected in the budget and revenue collections and estimates.

“We have had to significantly revise projections and budget allocations as a result of the complete loss of the garment industry and the softening of our tourism industry. The CNMI has also been affected by the Japanese recession and the substantial drop in the value of the Korean won,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Japan and Korea are the main

tourism markets of the CNMI, which also suffered reductions in airline flight capacity.

Posing additional challenges to the CNMI are the impending start of the transition to federal immigration and another 50-cent increase in minimum wage in May as required by federal law.

“In other words, we are facing a substantially different economic situation from 2007. In 2007, the U.S. stock market hit a record high. This year, the U.S. and international markets have suffered substantial losses—losses not seen in decades. The CNMI is also affected by the global economic environment,” Reyes said.

He added that the 2007 Economic Census may not be as helpful today given the changed circumstances. “The Conway-McPhee economic report may actually be more useful and relevant,” he added.

Other findings

The retail trade sector in the CNMI accounted for \$272 million in sales, employed 2,770 people, and paid \$28.6 million in annual payroll in 2007, the 2007 economic census says.

The 2002 data was better, with retail

trade accounting for \$312 million in sales, employed 2,916 people, and paid \$29.3 million in annual payroll.

General merchandise stores made up the largest share of the retail sales, accounting for 33 percent or \$89.1 million of total retail sales in the CNMI.

Businesses on Saipan reported more than \$1.2 billion in total sales, nearly 97 percent of the total reported for the entire Commonwealth.

US economic census

Besides releasing the 2007 Economic Census for the CNMI, the U.S. Census Bureau also released yesterday the preliminary data from the 2007 Economic Census.

This advance report is the first in a series of industry and geographic area data, including information for more than 1,000 communities not available from previous censuses.

The economic census is conducted every five years and is the most comprehensive and detailed profile of the U.S. economy, covering millions of businesses representing more than 1,000 industries. The census provides the foundation and benchmark for gross domestic product, monthly retail

sales and other indicators of economic performance.

Wholesale trade, manufacturing, and retail trade remained the largest sectors in the U.S. economy.

Wholesale trade businesses reported more than \$5.9 trillion in receipts in 2007, an increase of nearly 28 percent from the \$4.6 trillion reported in 2002.

Manufacturers reported shipments of more than \$5.3 trillion in 2007, an increase of more than \$1.4 trillion from the \$3.9 trillion reported in 2002. This was the largest increase among all sectors covered in the economic census.

Over the same period, the manufacturing sector experienced a loss of more than 1.3 million jobs, falling to 13.3 million; this was the second largest decrease of any sector.

Data from the 2007 Economic Census will be released over a two-year period, through June 2011. These data primarily cover the nation’s 7 million businesses with paid employees. Separate data on the 21 million businesses without paid employees will be released in mid-2009.

Ex-operator of hotel files \$1M suit against its former and new owners

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The former operator of Holiday In Saipan Resort Club has filed a \$1-million lawsuit against the former owners of the hotel for allegedly refusing to pay for operating expenses, management fees, and commission over the sale of the property.

Nancy C. Garcia and her Family Alliance Corp., FAMACOR, sued JEMCO Inc. and owners Ojiro Ishihara, his wife Motoko Ishihara, and Kazuki Fishimi. Garcia and FAMACOR also sued the current owners of the hotel and its company and management: Chong Nam Lee, CN Lee International Inc., Moon Ki Yoo, Ok Ja Wang, and ABANA Co. Ltd.

The plaintiffs, through lawyer William Fitzgerald, sued the defendants for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, assisting a breach of fiduciary duty, interference with a contractual relationship, and unjust enrichment.

Garcia and FAMACOR asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay them \$1 million in punitive damages for their alleged intentional and malicious nature of their actions.

According to the lawsuit, Ojiro Ishihara was the sole owner and president of JEMCO. Motoko Ishihara, wife of Ojiro Ishihara, was a director. Lee is the owner of CN Lee International. Yoo and Wang are principal owners of ABANA Co.

Fitzgerald stated in the complaint that Garcia was a longtime CNMI resident who provided bookkeeping services and other business consultation and services to Japanese individuals and businesses since 1988.

Fitzgerald said Garcia first met Ojiro Ishihara in 1988 when she, through her employer, provided accounting and bookkeeping services to him and his Saipan company, Japan Enterprises Marianas Corp.

In 1993, Garcia established FAMACOR, which began providing accounting and bookkeeping services to Ojiro Ishihara and Japan Enterprises.

That same year, Ojiro Ishihara and Japan Enterprises sold all of its assets. He incorporated JEMCO to purchase a hotel on Saipan known as the Blueberry Hotel.

Shortly after the purchase of the hotel, Ojiro Ishihara changed the name of the hotel to Holiday In Saipan Resort Club, Fitzgerald said.

After the purchase of the

Holiday In and because he resides in Japan, Ojiro Ishihara asked Garcia and FAMACOR to manage the hotel until the property could be sold to a third party, the lawyer said.

He said Garcia's and FAMACOR's management of Holiday In included supplying manpower to the hotel; providing transportation to guests from the airport to the hotel; accounting and bookkeeping services; and payment of bills.

Fitzgerald said Garcia was made vice president of JEMCO.

In exchange for such services, Fitzgerald said, Ojiro Ishihara agreed to pay Garcia a commission of no less than \$250,000 upon the sale of the hotel to a purchaser.

Despite over 100 potential purchasers, the lawyer said, Ojiro Ishihara was unable to find a purchaser that met his sale demands.

"Accordingly, from 1993 to 2007, Garcia and FAMACOR continued to operate Holiday In pending the anticipated sale of the property to a third party," Fitzgerald said.

During its operation, Fitzgerald said, Ojiro Ishihara and JEMCO were receiving the vast majority of revenues from the operations of Holiday In, but they failed to and refused to remit them to Garcia and FAMACOR to cover operating expenses, management fees, and other obligations with regard to the operations.

He stated that Garcia and FAMACOR were compelled to finance deficits in operating expenses from their own businesses.

In December 2006, Garcia learned that Ojiro Ishihara, along with his wife Motoko and Fushimi, had found a potential purchaser.

In March 2007, Ojiro Ishihara and Fishimi, with the assistance of other people, sold the Holiday In to a third party purchaser. The purchasers were Yoo and his wife Wang through their company ABANA. Lee and his company, CNL, assisted and facilitated the sale, according to Fitzgerald.

CNL, Fitzgerald said, became involved in the management and the operations of the property under the new owners.

"Upon the sale, Ojiro Ishihara, JEMCO, Fushimi, Yoo, Wang, ABANA, Lee, and CNL and possibly other people failed and refused to reimburse plaintiffs for the operating expenses they had incurred related to their management of the hotel," the lawyer said.

Human bones recovered in Marpi

Human bones were found in Marpi yesterday morning, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS acting spokesperson Jason Tarkong said he received information that DPS detectives responded to the Marpi area after receiving report of recovered human remains.

"Upon their arrival it looks

like it was recovered human bones from the World War II era," Tarkong said.

Tarkong said his information is still preliminary and that he should get more details by today, Thursday.

In other police news, the DPS spokesperson said two of three suspects were arrested for allegedly stealing a purse from a shop

in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday night.

Tarkong said preliminary report indicated that a woman lost a purse that she had placed on a table in a shop and later saw a boy running away from the establishment.

The victim chased the boy, but lost him in Chalan Kanoa village. Another male person was seen running with the boy.

Tarkong said police officers later arrested one male and one female.

"The preliminary police report is incomplete and I am in the process of trying to get all the information together," Tarkong said.

The two suspects are expected to be taken to the Superior Court today, Thursday, for a bail hearing. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

NMC prepares for Charter Day

Northern Marianas College will be commemorating its 28th year of existence by hosting Charter Day festivities next month.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez recently appointed a Charter Day committee to lead all the preparations required for the event.

The committee is chaired by David John Apatang and is composed of students and staff members of the college, while

subcommittees included budget, entertainment, hospitality, logistics, and marketing committees.

The event's actual date will be announced later this week.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Charter Day festivities will once again showcase the talent of several well-known groups on the island.

It is also currently considering talent performances such as the highly-anticipated Marianas

Idol Competition, the Battle of the Bands, Miss Pugua, and the CNMI's Best Dance Crew Competition.

The committee will be holding open auditions for the various competitions as Charter Day draws near.


In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies and specialty drinks for sale. Other booths will have

games for kids.

The Northern Marianas College Alumni Association will also be having a booth to register new members.

"This year's Charter Day will include a focus on the efforts of the college and the community in working together toward NMC's accreditation reaffirmation," said Apatang. "This is one way of our saying thank you to the community for all their support."

The committee is still looking for sponsors for this year's celebration. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*



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6:30pm - SAIPAN WORLD RESORT vs. FIESTA RESORT / GRAND
8:30pm - PIC SAIPAN vs. AQUA RESORT CLUB
Monday March 23rd @ the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Tinian

For further information, please call
VIP Services: (670) 328-2285

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku

NOTISIAN MAPROPONE POT ATKILON TÂNO’ PUPBLIKU

Kinonsiste ni Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Publiku 15-2, I Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku man nâna’i’ notisia pot I intension na para u ma’atkila I tano’ publiku giya Saipan, Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana. Maseha háyi na petsona gi publiku henerát siña muna halom opinion, infotmasion, kinontran testimonio pot para u kuentâyi I propositun I Kontrátan Atkilon. Ni maprobeniyi más ginen I Lai Publiku 15-2, manisisita para u mapupblika I man impotânte na infotmasion gi sigente:

- i. I tano’ publiku ni ma’atkila madeskribi kumo Sitio Numiro 190 E 01 a konsiste kâsi 4,809 square meters menos osino más, ni gaige gi Lower Base giya Saipan. Kopian I lugât I sitio gaige gi Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku para u ma’ina.
- ii. I para u atkila I Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., un koporasion giya CNMI. I Direktot I Kuetpon I koporasion I man sigente: si Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, yan si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.

I presidente I koporasion si Liberato C. Legaspi. I segundon I presidete si Marie Christine T. Legaspi. I sekretário si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. I tresurerun si Alejo C. Legaspi.
- iii. Si Siñot Liberato C. Legaspi yan si Siñot Noel Masongsong a negosio I kontrâta para I mapropone na atkilon.

I para u fanatkila debi u na’setbi i tano’ solamenti para u na’guaha’ fasilidât para muna’hanao kâtga siha.

I tiempion I mapropositu na Kontrátan Atkilon bente-singko años (25 yrs.), gai’ chánsa para u ekstiende para talo kinse años (15 yrs.).

I mapropositu na âpas atkilon gi sakkan durânten I tiempo sigun I mapega na presiu pot I baliña I lugât.
- v. I kabâles na kopian I Kontrátan Atkilon siña u machule’ gi Ofisinan I Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine’nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.
- vi. Ti maresibe’ ottro na klâsen propositu ni I Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku ni para u ma’atkila I tano’ giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekretário gi Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku siempre a aksepta tinige’ opinion, mensâhen kinontra yan testimonio osino ottro siha na propositu ginen I man enteresao na petsona gi pat ântes di Matso 23, 2009 gi Ofisinan I Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Publiku ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekki bwáári Lot No.190 E 01, eyoor faawu sangaras walabwughúw tiwoow (4,809 square meters), elap me ngäre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

Schóóy assamwool nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Vice President nge Marie Christine T. Legaspi, sekkretario nge Alejo C. Legaspi, treasurer nge Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
- iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon nge Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi me Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.

Schóóy akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley reel leliyel ammwelil kkaragha schagh.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) fengal me milikka re ayuuw mellol faluw.
- v. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkáaw pomwol akkilon yeel me Lower Base, Saipan.

Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Mááilap (March) 23, 2009 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 190 E 01, containing an area of approximately 4,809 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- iii. The prospective lessee is Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, and Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.

The President of the corporation is Liberato C. Legaspi. The vice president is Marie Christine T. Legaspi. The secretary is Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. The Treasurer is Alejo C. Legaspi.
- iv. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi and Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- v. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a freight forwarding facility.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property including existing structures.
- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 23, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

OPA urged to re-investigate ‘unresolved’ issues at NMC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Auditor Mike Pai is being urged by Taotao Tano Inc. president Gregorio Cruz to re-open a probe on “unresolved” issues at the Northern Marianas College, including unaccounted and missing funds that date back to the administration of former president Agnes McPhetres.

“We strongly believe that there are still unresolved questionable financial mismanagement uncovered by the former public auditor [Leo Lamotte] during early audits and oversight hearings held back then by the Legislature on such serious issues with the NMC,” Cruz told Pai in a letter yesterday.

He mentioned that these instances occurred during the tenure of McPhetres as the institution’s president and were “covered up for a long time.”

“We firmly believe and hope that your office reconsider re-auditing and investigating such improprieties as missing finan-

cial statements and mismanagement of NMC during Mrs. Agnes McPhetres’ tenure as president. This had been an issue that had long been covered up and, without OPA stepping in on the matter, [this] undermines the agency’s integrity of being the investigative arm of all government and autonomous agencies in the Commonwealth,” Cruz said.

To date, for example, Cruz said they are still unsure whether the \$82,000 embezzlement scheme on student scholarships was ever paid back to NMC by concerned individuals.

Cruz, citing documents about past NMC “issues,” wants an update on the OPA findings about discrepancies in the college since 1992; the unaccounted federal funds; and discrepancies in the college’s collections.

“If Judge Govendo can send two lawyers to jail for not accounting for all their expenditures, so can NMC,” Cruz added .

He also cited the case of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, saying “If the lieutenant governor

is under federal indictment from case files dating 10 to 15 years ago, so can NMC.”

Pai confirmed receiving Cruz’s request and said he has talked with the Taotao Tano president over the phone.

However, he said the request may not happen immediately, pending the hiring of additional manpower for audit works and request. OPA is in the process of hiring 11 individuals, majority of whom will be assigned to auditing work. As of yesterday, Pai said the list of applicants have yet to be seen by his office.

“An audit or re-investigation at NMC? Yes. However, we lack the manpower but once we hire the proper number of staff we will do it,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pai classified as “small audit projects” the past work conducted by OPA for NMC.

“NMC is a big entity and we need more staff. All agencies would like to be audited and we cannot audit them all at the same time. That’s why we’re working on a priority at present,” he added.

CDA posts \$63.2M assets in FY’07

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority had total assets of \$63.281 million in Fiscal Year 2007, based on a recently released audit report. The figure reflects a “very slight” decline of 1 percent from the previous year’s assets totaling \$63.338 million.

CDA’s functions are carried out through the development banking division, development corporation division, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Assets recorded for the development banking division totaled \$11.7 million compared to FY 2006’s \$11.9 million, the sole area that showed the 1 percent drop in the agency’s overall assets.

The development corporation division posted \$20.8 million assets, while NMHC had \$31.5 million.

The development banking division covers the government and public sectors while the corporate division is intended for private entities. These three main areas reported almost the same amount of

assets in FY 2006.

The audit report indicated that as of Sept. 30, 2007 and 2006, total restricted cash and cash equivalents and time certificates of deposits under the development banking corporation were \$9 million and \$8.5 million, respectively—or those maintained in financial institutions subject to FDIC insurance.

For the development corporation division, restricted cash and cash equivalent of deposit amounted to \$6.6 million and \$5.8 million as of September 2007 and 2006, respectively.

NMHC maintains depository accounts with financial institutions in the CNMI, which are restricted for various purposes. In 2007, this amounted to \$6.1 million while \$5.2 million in FY 2006.

Compensated absences, fund contribution

CDA also contributed to the Retirement Fund the required actuarial rate of 26.4 percent, which amounted to \$409,185 and \$326,053 respectively.

The agency, according to the report, is also exposed to various risks of loss related to rots,

theft, damage and destruction of assets, and others.

“It has elected to purchase commercial insurance from independent third parties for the risks of loss to which it is exposed. Settled claims for these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years [2005, 2006, 2007],” the report indicated.

A clean audit, good report

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan described the audit report as “good” when it was presented to the board during a recent meeting.

Citing the self-sufficiency of the agency, he considered the FY audit report a clean record for CDA.

“We’re very happy because it reflects a clean record and a clear audit report for CDA,” he said, adding he will continue the important mission and goal of the agency which is to stimulate the economy.

The combined statement of net assets and liabilities of the agency also reflect a “balance” figure of \$63.281 million in FY 2007.

Deadline extended for Farm Bill Programs

Applications are still being accepted from farmers and ranchers for two different Farm Bill Programs that are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. They include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Interested farmers and ranchers have until April 3, 2009, to submit their applica-

tions to be considered for this ranking period.

Financial assistance is available through EQIP to agricultural producers who are willing to implement conservation measures that treat the targeted natural resource concerns on their land (including forestry, organic farming, and energy conservation). WHIP provides technical and financial assistance to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Projects that install conservation measures on agricultural lands to address the following proposed identified priority natural resource concerns are being considered: animal waste, sedimentation, noxious weeds, insufficient water supply for livestock or irrigation, pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters, at-risk species habitat, and invasive species. *(PR)*

7th Annual Covenant Day Debate set this Monday

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to attend the 7th Annual Covenant Day Debate to be held on Monday, March 23, 3pm at the CNMI Supreme Court Chamber, Guma Husticia, Susupe. Admission is free.

This year's competition will be in a town hall format featuring two finalists each competing in a junior division and a senior division. They will debate the resolve "U.S. Public Law 110-229 violates the CNMI's right of self-government under Section 103 of the Covenant."

Judges for the event include former judge Edward Manibusan and attorneys Vincent J. Seaman and Judy DLG Torres. Veteran debater Patricia B. Coleman will serve as the moderator.

The NMI Council for the Humanities sponsors this event each year in conjunction with the National Forensic League and the Middle School Forensic League. Its goals are to promote research and critical thinking skills as well as to encourage students to examine key Covenant-related issues that affect life in the Commonwealth.

The Covenant is the political document that establishes the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its unique relationship with the United States.

Additional information about the Covenant Day Debate and other humanities programs may be obtained from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org or by calling 235-4785. (PR)

The 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival organizer gears up

The 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival, Micronesia's largest annual arts and cultural celebration, has been set for April 23-26, 2009, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The festival features visual, performing and culinary art of numerous cultures, including indigenous Chamorro and Carolinians of the Northern Marianas and cultures of Micronesia, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond.

"For nearly 30 years, the Flame Tree Arts Festival has attracted artists and art enthusiasts from the islands and beyond," said Marianas Visitors

Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "We look forward to another lively island celebration this year."

The theme of this year's festival is "Uniting Rainbows of Culture and Tradition." The festival will feature 20 food booths and 60 booths for artists and non-profit organizations. Festivities will be held the evening of April 23-24 and all day on April 25-26. Admission is free.

For more information about the Flame Tree Arts Festival, contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 670-322-9982/83 or e-mail marianasarts@pticom.com. (MVA)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 20th birthday to Frankie M. Camacho!

Whatever path you may choose in life we will always support and love you a hundred percent. So enjoy and party hardie! From your loving family & friends.



'THANK YOU'

Joseph Borja Jr. of Tinian recently passed his Captain Course Certification requirements through the Municipal Assistance Program. He expressed his gratitude to Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas for according him the opportunity to pass the certification. "Un dang-kulo na si yu'us ma'ase for all the help you had given me. Without your help, it would not have been possible. I am willing to give my help to you and the community, if needed.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota families with disabilities get CDD attention

As part of the celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities staff conducted a two-day mini-conference and training on Rota on March 11 and 12.

On March 11, a mini-conference was held at the As Paris Restaurant for the community of Rota from 8:30am to 4pm. The theme of the conference was "Creating Communities of the Future." Ray Diaz, program officer of CNMI Council on Disabilities, and Lynn Corella of the CNMI Public School System held presentations on "Traumatic Brain Injury," "Serving Customers with Disabilities: Train Hospitality Industry Workers" and "Behavioralist: Questions and Answers."

A total of 17 participants ranging from parents, employers, and staff to government and private sector employees were in attendance for the training and workshops.

In addition, the Council on Developmental Disabilities staff visited 10 government and private businesses establishments to provide a brief training on "Sensitivity Training: People First Language." The training is a part of the CDD State Plan to meet its goals and objectives to "provide training on developmental disabilities for the staff and management of local housing authority, private realtors, and landlords" and "provide training on developmental disabilities for the transportation services providers of people with develop-

mental disabilities."

Diaz conducted the training with the assistance of Pam Sablan, executive director, and Lillian Ada, program coordinator, CDD FS360.

The staff of Family Hope Center of FS360 under NMPASI Dorene Camacho was also on Rota to provide services to underserved and underprivileged families. Camacho visited families on Rota and gathered information needed for assistance.

"The workshop, training, and services were a success and the families, government, and private business sectors of Rota were thankful for CDD in making this event available for them," said the Council in a statement issued yesterday.

Events are also scheduled for

the island of Tinian on March 21-22 with a presentation by Dr. Kent Logan, who specializes in areas of developmental disabilities. He will be on Tinian to meet with families and teachers.

On Saipan, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be holding a conference at the Saipan World Resort slated for March 24-27, with a variety of presentations and sessions scheduled throughout the week.

The event was sponsored by the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Family Hope Center FS360, CNMI Public School System, NMPASI, and UCEDD.

For more information, contact the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/7002/7003. (PR)

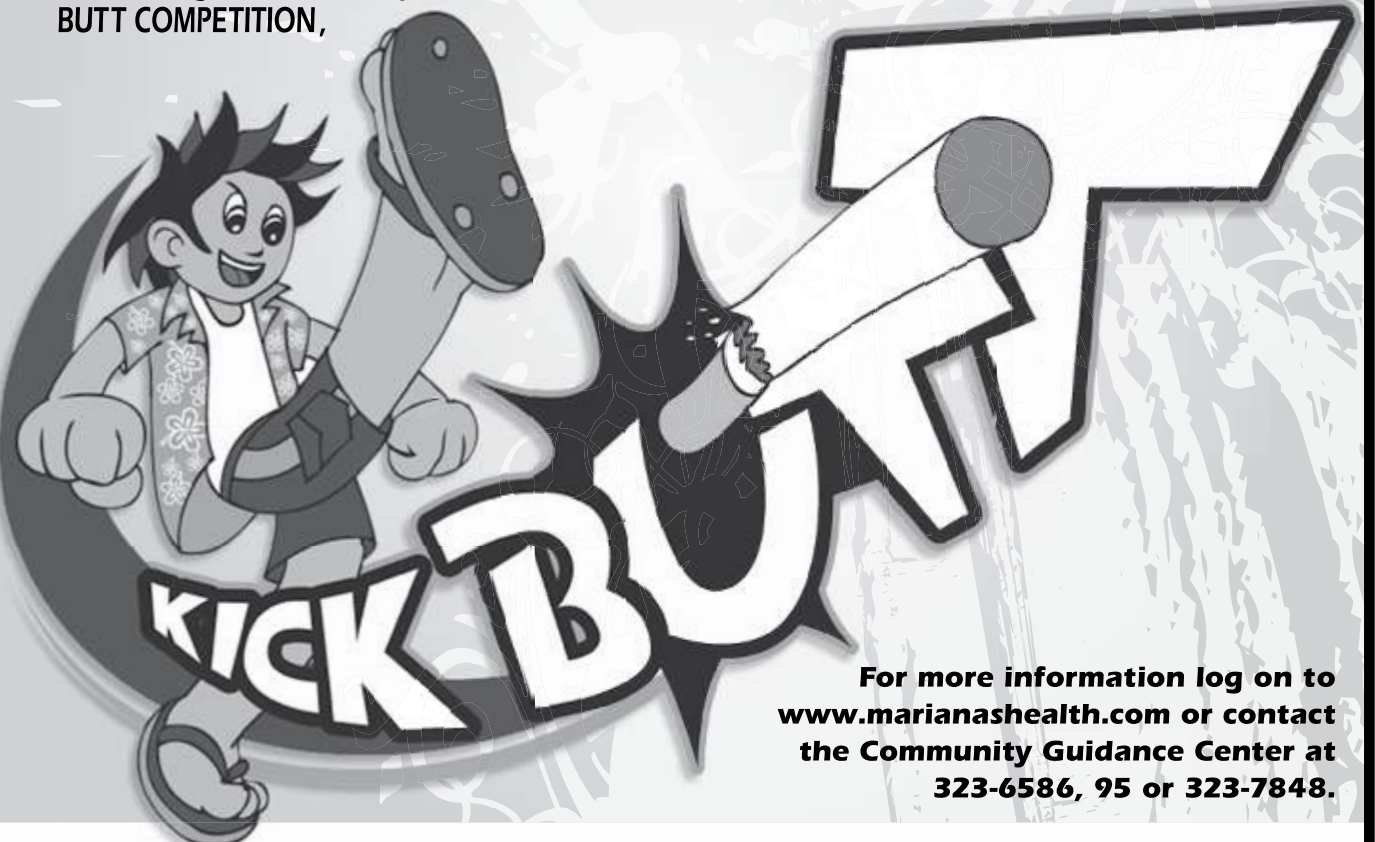
The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

is pleased to announce the....

4th ANNUAL KICK BUTTS DAY

march and rally on March 25, 2009
from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- The event features a march from the American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office.
- Junior and high school students will compete in a 3 to 5 minute THICK BUTT Dance Competition, and
- 6th to 8th graders will compete in a PICK BUTT COMPETITION,
- and there will be a JROTC DRILL COMPETITION.
- Prizes - 10 year perpetual plaque or cash.
- Educational exhibitors, entertainment, and giveaways will be provided at the event.



For more information log on to www.marianashealth.com or contact the Community Guidance Center at 323-6586, 95 or 323-7848.



Rare vine in Hawaii named endangered

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—A rare Hawaii vine has been added to the endangered species list, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Tuesday. It's the second species to be classified as endangered by the Obama administration. The first was the reticulated flatwoods salamander, an amphibian native to south Georgia, north Florida and coastal South Carolina. It was put on the list last month.

The Hawaii plant is found only in the wet forests on the island of Molokai, 2,300 to 4,200 feet above sea level. The green vine's loosely spreading branches often tangle in a large mass.

The vine doesn't have a common name, and is known only by its scientific name of *Phyllostegia hispida*.

"It is our hope that it will come to the forefront of public attention along with Hawaii's other numerous endangered plants," said Patrick Leonard, field supervisor for the agency's Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office.

Only 10 individual plants of the vine had been spotted between 1910 and 1996, the agency said.

It was thought to be extinct in 1997. But two seedlings were found at the Nature Conservancy's Kamakou Preserve in 2005.

Since 2007, 24 wild plants have been discovered. A total of 238 plants are known to currently exist.

The vine's low numbers put it at higher risk for being wiped out by natural disasters like hurricanes and disease outbreaks.

Feral pigs, an invasive spe-

cies, and competition from nonnative plants also threaten the plant.

The Lyon Arboretum in Honolulu, Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Molokai, and

other organization have been growing specimens that may be used to plant the vine in the wild, the agency said.

The state's Department of Natural Resources has put up

fences in some areas to protect them from pigs and other feral animals.

Hawaii has 329 federally protected endangered species, more than any other state.



In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a rare Molokai vine is seen. The plant, which is found only on the Hawaiian island of Molokai and is known by its scientific name of *Phyllostegia hispida*, has been declared an endangered species. It is the second species to be declared endangered under the Obama administration.

World Resort offers spring break camp

Saipan World Resort will be hosting several camp programs this spring break for children and teens.

Called "Spring Break Camp Quest 2009," the camp consists of four sessions from March 23 to April 17 (Monday to Friday). It is open to boys and girls ages 5 to 12 years old and 12 to 15 years old for Junior Lifeguarding.

Camp programs include Water Park activities, trips to the

Saipan Zoo, tennis lessons, swimming lessons, marine life lessons from CRMO, lifeguarding lessons, first aid lessons, field games, water games, and a scavenger hunt every end of the session.

Camp hours is from 8:30am for drop off until 4:30pm, for pick up.

Camp fees (including lunch & snacks)

■ \$100/week for locals and

non spaness members

■ \$25/day for locals and non spaness members

■ \$90/week for SWR spaness members & SWR employees

■ \$20/day for SWR spaness members & SWR employees

Registrations starts now. For more details, call Saipan World Resort's Sports & Recreation Department at 234-5900 Ext nos. 350/352/358 and look for Sheilla T. Torrevillas. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan Southern PTA meeting

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

March 19	Smart Start Seminar for MHS seniors, 8am-3pm at Saipan World Resort
March 24	No classes (Commonwealth Covenant Day)
April 6-7	3 rd Quarter Final Exams
April 8	4 th Quarter begins
April 9-13	Easter break
April 27- May 1	SAT10 Tests (Grade 9-11)
May 4-15	Advanced Placement Exams
May 18-22	PSS SBA Tests
May 25	No classes (Memorial Day)
June 11	Graduation Ceremony
June 15	End of 4 th Quarter

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

Pre-economic summit sessions set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is reminding the public of the upcoming Economic Restoration Summit, set for April 2-3, 2009. In preparation for the Summit, two meetings will be held this month to gather preliminary information and ideas from the private and public sectors.

The first session will focus on private sector stakeholders and is scheduled to take place today, March 19, 2009, at the Multi-Purpose Center from 8:30am to 1pm. The second session will be for government officials on March 26, 2009, at the same location

from 8:30am to 12pm. Both sessions will be broadcast through video teleconference to Rota and Tinian participants. (PR)

KagES sets cultural day fest

The Kagman Elementary School will be hosting its 9th Annual Cultural Day Festivities on March 28, 2009, Saturday, at the campus grounds, from 8:30am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; bring the whole family. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

Mar. 19	Smart Start Seminar for MHS Seniors, 8am-3pm at Saipan World Resort
Mar. 24	No classes (Commonwealth Covenant Day)

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

Tinian waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality assigned a green flag to beaches on Tinian after an analysis of samples collected from the island's beaches and storm drainages this week showed no excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The division analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from nine locations on Tinian this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. Marine Water Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm>. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 18, 1999

'Recovery a long shot'

Although Japanese arrivals to the CNMI have shown little signs of improvement, the recovery of Japan's tourism market and economy will not take place until the year 2001, according to an airline executive. Dousing hopes of many businessmen and local officials on the immediate rebound of the Japanese economy, the world's second largest, any sign of improvement would only be a very slight increase compared to what was experienced in the late 1980's, said Tom Shigemitsu, director for international passenger marketing and sales planning of Japan Airlines. This developed as an analysis of the island's economy showed that the Northern Marianas is headed for recession between now and 2005.

Asiana poised to boost Saipan run

Due to the increase in outbound travel from Korea, Asiana Airlines has decided to provide direct Seoul-Saipan service using a B767 six times a week beginning April 2. However, on July 21, 1999, Asiana will begin providing daily flights to Saipan, according to Perry John Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. "We are definitely seeing the recovery of the Korean market primarily due to the economic improvement in Korea," Tenorio said. Currently, Asiana's daily B 767 flight with 260 seats is shared by Guam and Saipan.

March 19, 2001

Police storm Garapan

It was no accident that the streets of Western Garapan were surprisingly scarce of skimpily dressed women roaming around Friday night. The unusually quiet ambiance in the otherwise busy commercial district had officials suspecting that word may have already leaked out of an instantaneous raid which was about to be conducted at Saipan's central business zone that night. Since its formation Tuesday of last week, the Governor's multi-disciplinary task force against prostitution wasted no time in going about its assigned mission by taking to the streets of Western Garapan to zero in on a number of suspected illegal activities reportedly widespread within the area.

Economic slowdown stops Tinian Dynasty from hooking up to CUC

TINIAN—Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino said Saturday that economic slowdown has rendered the management financially incapable to pay permit violation penalties imposed by the Coastal Resources Management. Tinian Dynasty Hotel Manager Tom Liu said their current revenue-generating capacity prevents the management from paying \$370,000 plus penalties for their failure to hook up to the Commonwealth Utilities' Corporation's 20-megawatt power plant on the island. As part of the management's self-imposed austerity measure, Liu the hotel has to depend on its nine generators for power and water supply. These generators provide Tinian Dynasty approximately 10-megawatt electricity, which is enough to cover the entire hotel and casino operations.

March 19, 2002

Gov't waits and see on FDM

Commonwealth officials are taking the position of wait-and-see, as developments continue to unfold in the lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity versus the U.S. military for its bombing activities on the Farallon de Mendinilla Island. And despite the court's ruling that the military bombings in the Farallon de Mendinilla violates a 1918 migratory bird treaty, military exercises on the island continues, with the Emergency Management Office warning the public-especially fishermen, tour operators and commercial pilots-to stay away from the area. Live fire exercises are scheduled daily until Friday, from 7am to 12 midnight. These would resume the following Sunday, and would last until March 31. They would be conducted on a similar time schedule daily.

CBD: Military has no permit to use Farallon

The U.S. Navy's bombing practices on Farallon de Mendinilla Island were being carried out despite the refusal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to issue a permit in connection with Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Center for Biological Diversity said. "The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of the oldest conservation statutes in existence, has since 1918 flatly prohibited harm to migratory birds absent a permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service," said a statement made by the environmental group, which was posted on its web site.



Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

March 19, thru March 25, 2009

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Opinion

Hafa Adali!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 68Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Bonus blowback

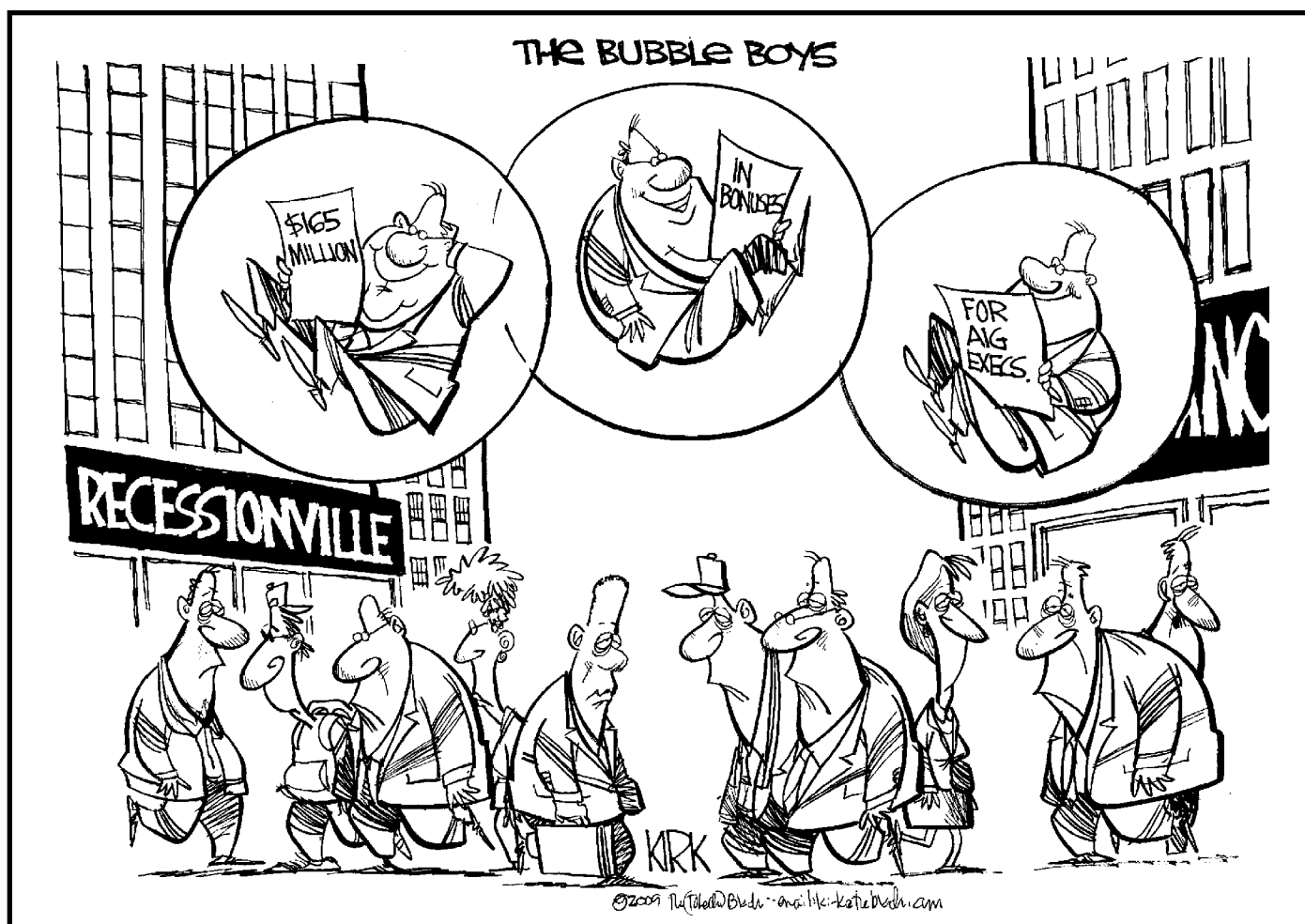
The Financial Products division of American International Group is a monument to corporate greed and irresponsibility. It exploited the AAA credit rating of its parent, the profitable global insurance firm, to underwrite hundreds of billions of dollars worth of financial derivatives without setting aside reserves to cover the potential downside. When it faced a sudden cash shortage last fall, the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve had to take it over, lest the firm's counterparties, which included such pillars of Wall Street as Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, as well as European mainstays Deutsche Bank and BNP Paribas, get dragged down with it. Necessary to preserve the global financial system, the bailout of AIG is nevertheless especially galling because of the firm's recklessness and the staggering cost—\$170 billion at last check, with no end in sight. So everyone felt a surge of outrage upon learning this week-end that Financial Products executives stand to get \$165 million in bonuses. The idea that the very people who built Financial Products should now receive so much taxpayer money is, indeed, disgusting.

If fairness and justice were the only considerations, we would join the chorus urging the Obama administration to eliminate the bonuses. Alas, AIG Financial Products still retains tremendous potential to damage the world economy. The firm's remaining \$1.6 trillion derivatives portfolio is like one of those delicate, world-destroying time bombs that James Bond used to have to disarm in the movies; the difference here is that the only people who appear to be knowledgeable enough to dismantle the bomb are the ones who built it. This is one reason replacing key traders and risk managers would not be practical on a large scale." Translation: Give them the bonuses, or they'll walk out and let Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner try to figure out this mess.

Like most of the people writing about AIG, we have no idea whether this threat is empty. We note, though, that the man closest to the situation, chief executive Edward M. Liddy—who was brought in by the government to detoxify AIG—believes that the danger is real and that the potential additional losses from a mismanaged wind-down of Financial Products could run into the many billions of dollars. He counsels paying the bonuses, on the plausible ground that \$165 million is the cost of avoiding a much bigger melt-down, for which taxpayers would also be on the hook.

That doesn't make it any easier politically for President Obama, which is why he went before the cameras this week and ordered Mr. Geithner to "pursue every legal avenue to block these bonuses." This forceful statement could mean anything from "don't pay them even if they sue" to "try to negotiate a better deal once the controversy cools." We hope that the president is setting the stage to do whatever it takes to answer legitimate protests about AIG without adding to the existing dangers or jeopardizing the necessary rescues of the banking sector still to come. In his address to Congress last month, Mr. Obama observed that "we cannot afford to govern out of anger, or yield to the politics of the moment." Those remain wise words.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Workplace bullies

"Most organizations have a serial bully. It never ceases to amaze me how one person's divisive, disordered, dysfunctional behavior can permeate the entire organization like a cancer."

—Tim Field

Most of you can probably remember the schoolyard bully who delighted in picking on other kids. If you were a victim of a prepubescent tormentor, you probably dreaded walking to school, playing at recess, or going outside in case you ran into the person who made your life miserable.

Those young toughs who got their jollies pushing around weaker children eventually grew up and some have become irresponsible adults who continue to bully others in the workplace. We recently found an interesting website at www.bullyonline.org, that has a lot of information about this workplace malady that leads to stress breakdowns, high staff turnover, excessive grievances, suspensions, dismissals, early retirements, and costly litigation.

Bullying is the common denominator of harassment, discrimination, abuse, conflict, prejudice and violence. It is one of the most important social issues of today because its behavior underlies almost all conflict and violence. Research by Professor Cary Cooper and colleagues in February 2000 revealed that out of 5,300 employees in 70 organizations, 1 in 10 said they'd been bullied in the last six months and 1 in 4 said they'd been bullied in the last 5 years. Those individuals who were bullied within the last six months consistently reported the poorest health, lowest work motivation, highest absenteeism as well as the lowest productivity compared to those who were not bullied. Another 47 percent who reported witnessing bullying in the last five years were more likely to report poorer health and lower morale than those who worked in bullying-free workplaces.

Bullying is an obsessive-compulsive behavior, and the serial bully has to have someone to torment and appears to be unable to survive without a current target. It's estimated that one in 30 persons is a serial bully. They come in all shapes and sizes, male and female, and they can be anyone in your organization. To determine if you have a workplace bully, consider just 10 of the 46 characteristics that were listed on the website. A bully:

- Is unusually skilled in being able to anticipate what people want to hear and then saying it in a believable way.
- Uses excessive charm and is always plausible and convincing when peers, superiors or others are present.
- Excels at deception and should never be underestimated in his/her capacity to deceive.
- Refuses to be specific and doesn't give a straight answer.
- Is a convincing and practiced liar and when caught, will make up anything spontaneously to fit his/her needs at the moment.
- Undermines and destroys anyone who he/she perceives to be an adversary, a potential threat, or who can see through the bully's mask.
- Is quick to belittle, undermine, denigrate, and discredit anyone

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



who calls, attempts to call, or might call the bully to account, and may pursue a vindictive vendetta against anyone who dares to hold him/her accountable.

- Sees nothing wrong with his/her behavior and chooses to remain oblivious to the discrepancy between how he/she likes to be seen and how he/she is actually perceived by others.
- Is convinced of his/her superiority and has an overbearing belief in his/her qualities of leadership, but cannot distinguish between leadership (decisiveness, assertiveness, trust, integrity) and bullying (impulsiveness, aggression, manipulation, distrust, deceitfulness).
- Is constantly imposing on others a false reality made up of distortion and fabrication.

As you read over the profile of a serial bully, did it describe anyone you know at work? If yes, then you may be an observer or victim of bullying. If too many of the characteristics fit your personality, then you may be the bully, but according to the profile, you would not admit it or even recognize your sociopathic tendencies.

Most people do not recognize bullying, but realize that there are problems at work that make it difficult to stay motivated. Unlike assault or harassment, bullying is subtle and may involve hundreds of incidents that appear trivial when viewed out of context and in isolation; so therefore, bystanders can't see or understand the whole picture.

Many people will not speak up, even after they recognize a bully because they lack the moral courage to stand up to one. In an environment where bullying is entrenched, it is regarded as "normal" behavior or part of the culture. Typically, there is a climate of fear and low morale throughout the organization. Those with a feeling of hopelessness will "vote with their feet" by quitting their job or retiring early.

When one does take a stand, the bully will often move into phase two of the bullying process, which is elimination. This tactic tends to keep the people in their place while the bully mounts a covert attack designed to force the victim to resign or create a paper trail that can be used to terminate the individual. Those who refuse to support the bully are isolated, victimized, have undue constraints or workloads imposed, and are subjected to disciplinary proceedings on trumped-up charges as a prelude to termination.

Bullies don't just stop bullying on their own, but have a compulsive need to exert power over others. If you're the bully, get some professional help. If you're being bullied or are a witness to bullying, take a stand. For some ideas on how to deal with a workplace bully, go to www.bullyonline.org and read some of their insightful articles.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The good old days were pretty good

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of my parents deciding to wade into the American dream. In 1989, they decided to stop living as renters in a bad Anaheim, Calif., neighborhood, scrape together their tomato-canner and truck-driver salaries, and buy a three-bedroom, two-bath, one-pool house in a slightly better Anaheim neighborhood. Soon, other Hispanic immigrants moved onto the same street, displacing members of the Greatest Generation who retired elsewhere or who just didn't appreciate our fondness for brightening their stucco paradise with wrought-iron fences, palm trees, rose bushes and chickens.

My parents and siblings still live there, but now the Arellanos are one of three families that remain from when we moved in. In the last five years alone, we've seen the next generation of renters and buyers try vainly to keep up with escalating mortgages, only to fail and either lose their homes or bring in family members to help carry the burden.

My parents' generation of Mexicans came to this country with nothing—many of them illegally—and they still live as if they were back on the rancho. Yet all of my uncles, aunts and their middle-aged Mexican

immigrant friends own their homes. And they are in many ways better positioned to weather this recession than the sons and daughters they encouraged to educate themselves and aspire to better lives.

Many of the kids of my generation still live at home or room with friends, and will for the foreseeable future. We don't even have the option anymore, as we used to laughingly threaten, to move back to our ancestral villages and live in our family homes. Mexico's hellish narco-war has killed that idea. So we're left with this fact: The immigrants of my parents' generation are better off than their educated American kids.

It's not that my parents' generation is unaffected by the recession. My mother was on its leading edge. In 1997, she lost her job when the iconic Hunt-Wesson tomato cannery where she worked for 30 years, shut down. Now she works odd jobs. My father was laid off recently by the trucking company he worked for. (Anyone looking for a troquero with 20-plus years of experience? Call me!)

But my parents bought a house in a time when real estate was a lot cheaper, and their mortgage is affordable. The house will be paid off within the decade, free of refinancing or any stupid-human mortgage tricks.

My parents are also more nimble, better positioned than many people to find work in bad times. My father, with his fourth-grade

education, has worked as a carpet cutter, a pool cleaner, a janitor, a gardener and even a pro bono Alcoholics Anonymous counselor. Even now, he's willing to learn another trade—anything that will keep him out of the welfare or unemployment line. That, he has always told me, would be a supreme insult, not only to his pride but to his adopted country.

I have a white-collar career, a master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and no debt or children, but I can barely pay the rent on my humble, one-bedroom apartment, let alone imagine owning a place of my own. My mom and dad have long encouraged me to buy, but I see too much volatility, despise the mortgage racket and—frankly—will not pay three times what my parents did for a similar-quality abode.

My parents came from a generation of nothing, an existence in which the sword of poverty dangled above families daily, teaching them to always prepare for the worst. My peers and I, spoiled on the Reagan-era notion of faith in money, stand at the edge of economic despair with few tools for coping other than constant Internet access. Mom, Dad and my tios y tias will survive. Me? That bunk bed I shared with my brother for 15 years is sure looking good.

Arellano is the author of Orange County: A Personal History.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you

One year ago I introduced the concept of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument to the people of the Marianas with the following words:

"It is the responsibility of every indigenous person to ensure that these islands are passed down to the next generation in the same condition in which they were passed down to us. I take that promise seriously. This is how I practice my culture." (Practicing My Culture, *Saipan Tribune*, March 20, 2008)

The monument as proposed to the public in March 2008 had several months' worth of input from government and environmental leaders in the Marianas. Prior to the announcement I had set up a meeting between Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Ignacio Dela Cruz, Senior Policy Advisor Ramon Mafnas, then-Rep. Cinta M. Kaipat, and Jay Nelson of Pew Environment Group (August 2007). I also arranged a presentation by Pew Environment Group to the Mariana Island Nature Alliance at one of their public meetings (November 2007) and personally briefed the three heads of the local government's natural resource agencies: Sylvan Igisomar of Division of Fish & Wildlife, Frank Rauliman of Division of Environmental Quality, and John Joyner of Coastal Resource Management (December 2007). The monument was also discussed in several Beautify CNMI meetings, which are open to the public and announced ahead of time. Additionally, a letter outlining the concept of a monument was also sent to Gov. Benigno Fitial in December 2007.

One week before the public announcement I helped set up meetings with other government officials, including a presentation to a joint session of the Legislature and a meeting of the Governor's

Military Task Force, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Commission, and Strategic Economic Development Council in which over 40 government, business, and community leaders attended (March 2008).

Input was taken at every meeting and led to the following proposal, which was eloquently captured in a letter to the editor by Cinta Kaipat on May 1, 2008. The proposal was to "create federally funded local jobs, give a needed boost to our struggling tourism industry, bring positive worldwide attention to our shores, and most importantly, protect three of our islands and their surrounding waters for generations to come." (Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, *Saipan Tribune*, May 1)

The announcement was made in a letter to the editor and was followed by a series of 115 public meetings in conference rooms, meeting halls, pala palas, bars, classrooms, restaurants, people's homes, and offices on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

During this process 6,000 local residents exercised their First Amendment rights and petitioned President Bush to create the monument. Five hundred students wrote handwritten letters containing their concerns and hopes for the monument. Over 400 people participated in a public meeting hosted by the White House to gather comments, the first of its kind in the Commonwealth. Some 206 business owners and managers signed a petition in support of the monument and about 100 local people wrote letters and e-mails to the President.

Many of our local private institutions supported the designation of the monument, including the Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Tan Holdings, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Beautify CNMI and Marianas Dive. The *Saipan Tribune* also endorsed the monument in an editorial.

Finally, Governor Fitial, Senate President Reyes, and House Speaker Palacios in an eleventh hour turn around came to support the monument. The monument would not have been designated had they not come on board. This was repeated at every meeting and, despite

claims by Wespac officials to the contrary, ultimately proved true.

Early on there was some confusion as to the role of a private institution and government. The process to create a monument was always something that would occur between governments. Although the Pew Environment Group and Friends of the Monument would have loved to have been at the so-called negotiating table, this process was always going to take place between the duly elected leaders of the Commonwealth and the United States and their appointed representatives. The role of the private institution was to provide information and public education.

It has been nearly three months since the Marianas became home to one of the world's largest marine protected areas, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, yet the process to draft a management plan has just begun.

By April 6 the Secretary of Commerce will select a five-person Marine Monument Advisory Council. Three of the council members will be government officials of the Northern Mariana Islands. They will be chosen in consultation with Governor Fitial.

Following the selection of the Advisory Council, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service will begin a scoping period where the public will have more opportunity for input.

With that said, everyone who was involved in getting us to where we are right now deserves a hearty pat on the back and a well-deserved thank you. I cannot think of any other issue that has engaged and inspired so many people and brought so many people together in recent memory. People who can usually not agree on anything came together to support this project. I admit that there were some people out on the fringes, but the vast majority of our people were behind the monument on the day it was designated.

Our community should be proud of what we have accomplished. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

Angelo Villagomez

Gualo Rai, Saipan

TES CCLHS shows appreciation

On behalf of the members of the Tinian Elementary Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies, we offer our utmost appreciation and gratitude to Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, chairman Antonio H. Borja of the Tinian Municipal Council, MV Reyes, Cha-cha Poker, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Islander Rent-A-Car, Johnson's Airconditioning, ELS Auto Shop, Tinian Shipping, JC Cafe, Salon Professionel, Esther Basa, Mikeala A. San Nicolas, Cecilia & Leroy Fitial, Island Store, Julie Diaz, Diana and Kyle Hocog, Stephanie Borja, Isa and Ina Dela Cruz, and Sonny Decena for all your help and commitment in making the "Chamorro Competition" held March 9th in Guam a successful one.

We had approximately 52 competitors and all appeared to have had a good time. Each year, CCLHS continues to advance in the competition. Through the CCLHS program, we have seen many children change for the better.

The competition and experience were equally enjoyable. We could not have done it without your help. Again, many thanks and we look forward to working with you in the future, for enhancement of the community. The children enjoyed the special assistance donated by you all. *Un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase.*

Richard Lazaro
Jing Biton
Carla San Nicolas
Julie San Nicolas

(Officers for the CCLHS Committee 09)








CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Elementary School students from Kindergarten to 3rd grade pose for a souvenir picture after winning first place in the Chamorro Choir Category.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

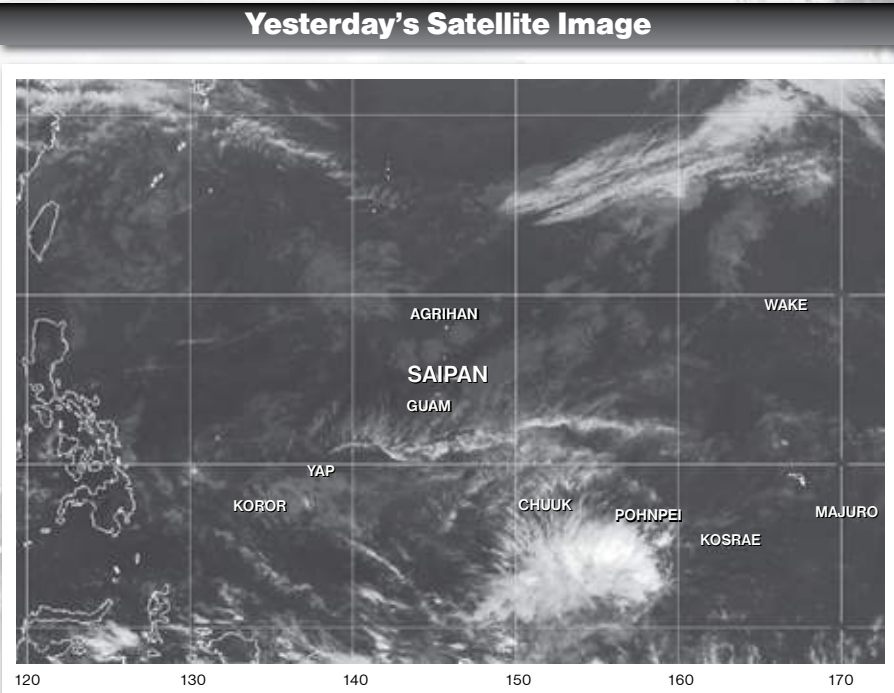
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲73 ▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼37
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼70
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲76 ▼69
London	Cloudy	▲57 ▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲74 ▼56
Manila	Cloudy	▲90 ▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲81 ▼61
Miami	Showers	▲80 ▼64
New York	Rain	▲53 ▼36
Osaka	Cloudy	▲69 ▼63
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲53 ▼38
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲69 ▼48
Rome	Showers	▲54 ▼38
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼43
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64 ▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲59 ▼43
Tokyo	Sunny	▲70 ▼54
Washington, DC	Rain	▲58 ▼36

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:30 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:42 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
12:08 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:32 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An old shear line extends southwestward from 25N161E to end at 16N135E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are concentrated along and north of the shear line in two locations. The first area lies to the north of a line from 23N147E to 22N159E and includes Minami Tori Shima. The second area is located northwest of the CNMI between 18N and 22N from 137E to 142E. A circulation has formed southwest of Pohnpei at 2N155E. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the circulation are occurring south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 1N and 5N from 151E to 159E. A weak surface trough runs northeastward from EQ175E to 4N178E. Trade winds converging near the trough are generating scattered showers just east of Tarawa and Butaritari Atolls within 70 miles of a line from 1N174E to 4N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:22 AM	6:28 PM	Today	12:50 AM	12:09 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Friday	1:38 AM	1:01 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Saturday	2:24 AM	1:53 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM	Sunday	3:06 AM	2:44 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM	Monday	3:46 AM	3:34 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Saipan-Rota					Rota-Saipan				
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7		CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6	
Saipan-Guam					Guam-Saipan				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily		CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7	
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily		CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota	
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota		CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6		CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily		CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily		CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
Saipan-Narita					Narita-Saipan				
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily		NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily	
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7		NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily		NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
Guam-Narita					Narita-Guam				
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily		NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily	
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily		NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka					Osaka-Saipan				
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6		OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7	
Guam-Osaka					Osaka-Guam				
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily		NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya					Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily		NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily	
Guam-Nagoya					Nagoya-Guam				
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily	
Saipan-Incheon					Incheon-Saipan				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7		OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka		OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka	
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily		OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Saipan-Busan					Busan-Saipan				
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7		OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7	
Saipan-Shanghai					Shanghai-Saipan				
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6		FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5	
Rota-Guam					Guam-Rota				
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7		CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6	
Guam-Palau					Palau-Guam				
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7		CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2	
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5		CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6	
Palau-Manila					Manila-Palau				
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5		CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5	
Guam-Manila					Manila-Guam				
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror		CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily		CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7		PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
Nagoya-Manila					Manila-Nagoya				
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily		NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily	
Incheon-Hongkong					Hongkong-Incheon				
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily		OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily	
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily		OZ 7183	12:45am	5:40am	1,4,6	
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7		OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily	
Narita-Manila					Manila-Narita				
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily		NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Livid Democrats demand AIG return bailout bonuses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Talking tougher by the hour, livid Democrats confronted beleaguered insurance giant AIG with an ultimatum Tuesday: Give back \$165 million in post-bailout bonuses or watch Congress tax it away with emergency legislation. Republicans declared the Democrats were hardly blameless, accusing them of standing by while the bonus deal was cemented and suggesting that Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner could and should have done more.

While the White House expressed confidence in Geithner, it was clearly placing the responsibility for how the matter was handled on his shoulders.

Fresh details, meanwhile, pushed AIG outrage ever higher: New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo reported that 73 separate company employees received bonus checks of \$1 million or more last Friday. This at a company that was failing so spectacularly the government felt the need to prop it up with a \$170 billion bailout.

The financial bailout program



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. speaks to reporters following the weekly policy luncheons on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 17, 2009.

remains politically unpopular and has been a drag on Barack Obama's new presidency, even though the plan began under his

predecessor, George W. Bush. The White House is well aware of the nation's bailout fatigue—anger that hundreds of billions

of taxpayer dollars have gone to prop up financial institutions that made poor decisions, while many others who have done no

wrong have paid the price.

The administration wouldn't be pleased to hear what Maria Panza-Villa, of Hillsboro, Ore., had to say. "Wasn't Obama supposed to fix this?" asked the mother of two who said she has lost three jobs since November as one employer after another went under.

AIG chief executive Edward Liddy can expect a verbal pummeling Wednesday when he testifies before a House subcommittee.

On Capitol Hill late Tuesday, House Democrats directed three powerful committees to come up with legislation this week to authorize Attorney General Eric Holder to recover massive bonus payments made by companies like the ones paid last week by American International Group Inc.

Senate Democrats, meanwhile, suggested that if the AIG executives had any integrity, they would return the \$165 million in bonus money. One leading Republican even suggested they might honorably kill themselves, then said he didn't really mean it.

With key rate near zero, Fed scopes out options

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a key interest rate already near zero, Federal Reserve policymakers are weighing what other tools they can use to jolt the country out of recession.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues resume their two-day meeting Wednesday, and at its conclusion they are all but certain to leave a key bank lending rate at a record low to try to bolster the economy, which has been stuck in a recession since December 2007.

Economists predict the Fed will hold its lending rate be-

tween zero and 0.25 percent for the rest of this year and for most—if not all of—next year.

The hope is that rock-bottom borrowing costs will spur Americans to step up spending, which would aid the economy. So far, though, hard-to-get credit, rising unemployment and other negative forces have forced consumers and businesses to retrench.

Against that backdrop, Bernanke and his colleagues have pledged to use "all available tools" to battle the financial crisis and turn the economy around.

Gov't steps up scrutiny of Madoff's assets, bail

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors stepped up their scrutiny of Bernard Madoff's family and assets Tuesday, telling a judge they want to seize jewelry, business interests and more than \$30 million that the disgraced money man and his wife lent to their two sons.

The move was one of two motions prosecutors filed Tuesday, four days after Madoff pleaded guilty to what could be the largest fraud in history. The other motion argued that Madoff must remain behind bars before his sentencing because his guilty plea creates a tremendous motive to flee, especially since

he faces the near-certainty of a life prison sentence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa A. Baroni said strict bail conditions that have kept Madoff under guard in his apartment with an electronic ankle bracelet and video monitoring were not foolproof. She said Madoff "managed to perpetrate an enormous fraud, over the course of decades; his ingenuity should not be underestimated."

The prosecutor even noted that Madoff "has been shunned by the New York community and his inability to salvage his reputation." She said his history

of extensive foreign travel, including to his \$1 million home in France, also heightened the risk he could flee.

The court filing sets the stage for arguments Thursday before a federal appeals court on whether Madoff should remain jailed. His defense lawyers have asked the court to set him free ahead of his sentencing.

The bail issue was one of two fronts for prosecutors in the Madoff case Tuesday. They are also pursuing the fruits of the fraud, attempting to seize as many assets from Madoff as they can to reimburse victims who lost billions.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil drifts below \$49 in Asia as rally stalls

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices drifted below \$49 a barrel as investors mulled whether a still-weak global economy and crude demand has justified a recent rally in prices. Benchmark crude for April delivery fell 57 cents to \$48.59 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices rose \$1.81 a barrel on Tuesday to settle at \$49.16. Prices have been bolstered by renewed optimism in stock markets, which oil traders often use to measure overall investor sentiment about the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.5 percent Tuesday and the Standard & Poor's 500 index jumped 3.2 percent. Investors are trying to gauge whether the worst of the U.S. recession is over.

Google taps top UK ad exec to run US sales

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google is promoting a top advertising executive in Europe to oversee the Internet search leader's sales in North America and South America. Dennis Woodside takes over from Tim Armstrong, who is leaving Google after 8 1/2 years to become CEO at AOL. Woodside, 40, had been steering Google's ad team in the United Kingdom for the past 2 1/2 years. Google announced Woodside's promotion Tuesday, moving quickly to fill the void created after Armstrong disclosed his plans to leave late last week. Armstrong's departure is seen as a blow because the United States generates more ad revenue for Google than any other country. Woodside was a logical successor because the United Kingdom is the Mountain View-based company's second-biggest market.

2009 Businesswoman of the Year nominees announced

TAMUNING, Guam—The fourth annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* brings recognition to businesswomen who have made a difference and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved.

The 2009 nominees are as follows: Aileen K. Alfred, president, Pacific American Title; Maria C. Daquigan, general manager, Sentry Hospitality Corp.; Divina Evaristo, marketing consultant, McDonald's of Guam; Kristal K. Koga, owner of the Kristal Collection; Rindraty Celes Limtiaco, president and publisher, *Pacific Daily News*; Susan L. Macario, general manager, Shirley's of Saipan; Anita M. Melwani, president, Safety 1st Systems Inc.; Lorraine S. Okada, executive manager, Carlsmith Ball LLP; Michelle



Lin Sablan, owner, Iridescent Boutique and Marisol L. Wild, manager, commercial relocations, Pacific Island Movers.

The Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business* May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cover. Proceeds from the gala will

fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the gala on April 25 may be purchased from Valerie Blas by calling 477-3092/483-3092 or e-mailing kinneys@teleguam.net.

Past recipients include Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairman of the board for Payless Markets Inc., 2006; Christine Won Pat Baletto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007; Julianne Rose Perez Dueñas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc., 2008.

For any questions or inquiries, contact Charmaine Chan, assistant editor of *Guam Business* at 671-649-0883 or assist_editor@glimpsesofguam.com. (PR)

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 3,386.20 Down 7.20 (-0.21%)	JAKARTA 1,312.31 Up 9.22 (+0.70%)
HONG KONG 13,075.39 Up 197.30 (+1.53%)	TOKYO 7,972.17 Up 23.04 (+0.29%)
K. LUMPUR 848.42 Up 6.55 (+0.78%)	MANILA 1,770.28 Up 10.95 (+0.62%)
SINGAPORE 1,581.65 Up 22.62 (+1.45%)	SEOUL 1,169.95 Up 6.07 (+0.52%)
BANGKOK 424.66 Up 2.34 (+0.55%)	

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 7,395.70 +178.73
S&P 778.12 +24.23
NASDAQ 1,462.11 +58.09

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.5090
British Pound	0.7110
Canadian Dollar	1.2680
Chinese Yuan	6.8300
Euro	0.7659
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7523
Indian Rupee	51.3250
Indonesian Rupiah	11,845.0000
Japanese Yen	98.5000
Malaysian Ringgit	3.6640
New Zealand Dollar	1.8841
Philippine Peso	48.4250
Singapore Dollar	1.5266
South Korean Won	1,420.1000
Swiss Franc	1.1789
Taiwan Dollar	34.1525
Thailand Baht	35.7950

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Calif. student missing since '07 overdosed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police said Tuesday they think a 19-year-old college student who went missing almost two years ago died of a drug overdose at a party, and they charged a convicted sex offender with involuntary manslaughter. San Diego State student Donna Jou's body has never been found, and Tuesday's announcement was the first official assertion that she is dead. The last time her family saw her she rode away from her Rancho Santa Margarita home on the back of a motorcycle driven by a man authorities identified as John Steven Burgess. She was later seen at a party at his West Los Angeles home. Burgess, a longtime suspect in her disappearance, is serving a three-year prison term for failing to register as a sex offender. Besides the involuntary manslaughter charge, the 36-year-old faces new charges of misdemeanor concealment of an accidental death, sale or transportation of heroin and sale or transportation of cocaine. He pleaded not guilty to all charges Tuesday.

Legally blind Mo. man saves woman from attacker

FENTON, Mo. (AP)—A legally blind man was credited with saving a woman after authorities said a 45-year-old man broke into her apartment on Saturday night. Authorities said the man, a convicted rapist, was waiting for the woman to return home from work. A neighbor who asked to be identified only as Jerry heard noises coming from the apartment. Jerry is blind in his left eye and has about 25 percent vision in his right eye. Jerry told KTVI-TV that he went to the apartment and kicked open the door, surprising the would-be attacker, who locked the door. The woman came home and confirmed she didn't know the man in her apartment, and police took the suspect away. The man was charged with burglary. The investigation is continuing.

Woman faces 4 murder charges in fatal Mich. crash

ROSEVILLE, Mich. (AP)—A woman prosecutors say was drunk when her van struck a car, killing four teenagers, was charged with second-degree murder Tuesday. Authorities said Frances Patricia Dingle's blood-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit of 0.08 percent Monday night when her vehicle slammed into a car that had been waiting to make a turn in the Detroit suburb of Roseville. Three of the victims were students at Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores, where classmates tearfully consoled each other Tuesday. "Her actions in this case are egregious," Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith told WWJ-AM. Dingle, 47, of Clinton Township, is charged with four counts each of second-degree murder and driving under the influence causing death. A murder conviction could bring a life prison sentence; the other charges carry a 15-year maximum. Dingle was arraigned Tuesday at St. John Macomb Hospital, where she was being treated for non-serious injuries sustained in the crash, Roseville Deputy Police Chief James Berlin said.

Health care overhaul may cost about \$1.5 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Guaranteeing health insurance for all Americans may cost about \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, health experts say. That's more than double the \$634 billion 'down payment' President Barack Obama set aside for health reform in his budget, raising the prospect of sticker shock at a time of record federal spending. Administration officials have pointedly avoided providing a ballpark estimate, saying it depends on details to be worked out with Congress.

"It's impossible to put a price tag on the plan before even the basics have been finalized," said White House spokesman Reid Cherlin. "Here's what we do know: The reserve fund in the president's budget is fully paid for and provides a substantial down payment on the cost of the

reforming our health care system."

Still, the potential runaway costs are raising concerns among Republicans and some Democrats as Congress prepares to draft next year's budget. The U.S. spends \$2.4 trillion a year on health care, more than any other advanced country. And some experts estimate that a third or more of that goes for tests and procedures that provide little or no benefit. "We shouldn't just be throwing more money on top of the present system, because the present system is so wasteful," said Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee.

The health care plan Obama offered

as a candidate would have cost nearly \$1.2 trillion over ten years, according to a detailed estimate last fall by the Lewin Group, a leading consulting and policy analysis firm. The campaign plan would not have covered all the uninsured, as most Democrats in Congress want to do. But it is a starting point for lawmakers.

John Sheils, a senior vice president of the Lewin Group, said about \$1.5 trillion to \$1.7 trillion would be a credible estimate for a plan that commits the nation to covering all its citizens. That would amount to around 4 percent of projected health care costs over the

next 10 years, he added.

The cost of covering the uninsured is "a difficult hurdle to get over," Sheils said in an interview.

"I don't know where the rest of the money is going to come from," he added.

Some of the leading advocates of coverage for all are using cost estimates of around \$1.5 trillion.

"Honestly...we can't do it for the \$634 billion the president put in the reserve fund," John Rother, public policy director for AARP told an insurance industry meeting in Washington last week.

"In all likelihood, it will be over \$1 trillion," he added, citing his own estimate of \$1.5 trillion.



Obama

2 octuplets return from hospital to SoCal home

LA HABRA, Calif. (AP)—Two of the world's longest-surviving octuplets came home from the hospital Tuesday night, greeted by a crush of photographers, neighbors and curious onlookers gathered on a cul-de-sac where the mother will raise her 14 children.

Nadya Suleman was sitting with her babies in the back seat of a sport utility vehicle that waded through the crowd and went straight into the garage of her new four-bedroom, three-bath home in La Habra, about 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

Many photographers shoved and pushed as their cameras flashed, clinging to the vehicle until the garage door closed. The door appeared to have been damaged, with dents visible on the outside.

Suleman, an unemployed divorced mother, gave birth to the octuplets nine weeks premature on Jan. 26 in Bellflower. She already had six children, ages 2 to 7.

The octuplets—who at birth weighed from 1 pound, 8 ounces to 3 pounds, 4 ounces—spent their first seven weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center. The first two babies to be discharged—Noah and Isaiah—are each about 5 pounds and are able to bottle feed, the hospital said.

The other two girls and four boys continue gaining weight and will be released another day, the hospital said.

"This is a happy moment for everyone—the family, physicians, nurses and entire NICU staff," said Dr. Mandhir Gupta, a neonatologist at the medical center. "It is always rewarding whenever a premature infant goes home as a healthy baby."

Dozens of media and others waited for hours outside the home for Suleman and the babies to arrive. Various vehicles trickled in early in the evening, some of them carrying the octuplets' older siblings, Suleman's mother and caregivers.

"We wanted to see the octomom," said neighbor Johnny Euentes, 46, who waited with his wife and son on the cul-de-sac. "I've got nothing else to do tonight; I'm just missing 'American Idol.'"

The octuplets will require around-the-clock care from at least two caregivers. Angels in Waiting, a nonprofit group of nurses that specializes in caring for fragile infants and children, estimates the babies will need a combined 64 feedings a day.



Nadya Suleman, the mother of octuplets arrives Tuesday March 17, 2009 with two of the world's longest-surviving octuplets, from the hospital to her home in La Habra, Calif.

New England pastor houses child killer, riles town

CHICHESTER, N.H. (AP)—A pastor in this quiet, picturesque New England town thought he was doing the Christian thing when he took in a convicted child killer who had served his time but had nowhere to go. But some neighbors of the Rev. David Pinckney vehemently disagree, one even threatening to burn his house down after officials could find no one else willing to take 60-year-old Raymond Guay.

"Politicians think they can dump their trash in our small town," said one neighbor, Jon Morales, whose girlfriend and two children live across an

unpaved road from Pinckney's home.

Chichester, a town of about 2,200 residents in south-central New Hampshire, has been in an uproar since the weekend, when police announced that Guay would spend two months with Pinckney's family.

About 40 angry residents protested outside the home Saturday, Merrimack County Sheriff Scott Hilliard said. One protester blustered that he wanted to set it on fire, he said.

Town leaders were expected Tuesday night to ask state and federal officials to remove Guay from town.

Guay already had a criminal record when he was charged in 1973, at age 25, with abducting and murdering a 12-year-old boy in Nashua. Authorities said he planned to sexually assault the boy, whose body was clad only in socks and undershorts.

Guay pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to up to 25 years. He kidnapped a Concord couple after briefly escaping from the nearby state prison in 1982 and was sent to a federal prison in California, where he stabbed an inmate in 1991, court records show.

Creationist museum: Darwin got something right

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A controversial Kentucky museum that trumpets the Bible story of creation and rejects evolution is making room for an odd guest: Charles Darwin.

A new exhibit at the Answers in Genesis Creation Museum argues that natural selection—Darwin's explanation for how species develop new traits over time—can coexist with the creationist assertion that all living things were created by God just a few thousand years ago.

"We wanted to show people that

creationists believe in natural selection," said Ken Ham, founder of the Christian ministry Answers in Genesis and frequent Darwin critic.

The exhibit might seem peculiar to many who have watched the decades-long battle between evolution scientists and creationists, who take the Bible's Genesis account as literal truth.

But the idea that creationists can accept natural selection "isn't really new in creationism, though it's interesting that Answers in Genesis would have an exhibit on it," said Eugenie Scott, execu-

tive director of the National Center for Science Education in Oakland, Calif.

The \$27 million museum has drawn international attention—and, the ministry says, more than 650,000 visitors—since its opening in Petersburg, Ky., just south of Cincinnati in 2007. Its exhibits match the high production value of popular natural history museums. But in its version of history, Adam and Eve are considered the first humans, Noah rescues humanity from a worldwide flood and early man frolics with dinosaurs.

Asia

30 years later, Afghan leader reburied with honor

KABUL (AP)—Executed in a coup 30 years ago, buried hastily in a mass grave along with a small golden Quran, the man who turned Afghanistan from a monarchy into a republic returned on Tuesday in a flag-draped coffin to the same palace where he met his death.

The body of President Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan was unearthed after a former Afghan general involved in the secret burial pointed the way last year to two mass graves. In July 2008, graves were opened that held the bodies of the former leader and 17 family members and associates killed with him.

Daud Khan, whose shooting death ushered in an era of Soviet domination over the country that lasted for a decade, was identified by teeth molds—but the key was the Quran, a gift from a Saudi king found along with the body in July 2008.

President Hamid Karzai, who directed the effort to identify his predecessor's remains, led Tuesday's ceremony, which began in the presidential palace where Daud Khan and his family were killed. Among those who attended were Karzai, his allies and political



Afghan guards of honor hold a portrait of Afghanistan's first president, Mohammed Daoud, during a ceremony to rebury his remains at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, March 17, 2009. AP

opponents, and the former president's surviving family members, along with international ambassadors.

An honor guard accompanied Daud Khan's body from the palace,

with soldiers bearing the coffin and larger-than-life portraits. He was buried along with family members on a hillside overlooking the mountains that surround Kabul.

The executed president drew praise for his five-year rule.

"After his death three decades of war ensued—first the Soviet's invaded and then the civil war ensued. The people

now hold his time, as one of the best in Afghanistan's history," said Mohammad Qasem Akhgar, an editor-in-chief of the Kabul daily named "8 a.m."

"He wanted development and progress in the country, he wanted democracy, but he also wanted to control everything. We should not forget that during his presidency, a lot of economic projects started. He believed in a strong educational system, as a basis for development, and was the man who established the Afghan state television."

Soviet troops rolled into Afghanistan in late December 1979. They occupied the country for 10 years but were forced to leave as the Soviet Union was breaking up in 1989.

They were replaced by the chaos of civil war, Taliban control and, finally, the U.S. invasion after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The Islamic militants have made a violent comeback the last three years following an apparent initial defeat after the 2001 U.S. invasion. In response, the U.S. is sending thousands of new troops to the south—the Taliban's heartland—this year to try to reverse their gains.

Filipina who accused Marine of rape changes story

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino woman whose accusations of rape led to the conviction of a U.S. Marine has altered her testimony and emigrated to the United States, saying she was no longer certain that a crime took place, a lawyer said Wednesday.

The case has strained U.S.-Philippine military relations amid calls for the scrapping of a pact allowing U.S. troops to train Filipino soldiers, and has become a rallying point for anti-American protests.

Three years after Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith was convicted of rape and sentenced to 40 years in jail, his accuser submitted a five-page affidavit to an

appeals court Tuesday saying she now doubts her own version of events.

"My conscience continues to bother me realizing that I may have in fact been so friendly and intimate with Daniel Smith ... that he was led to believe that I was amenable to having sex or that we simply just got carried away," the woman said in the statement.

She described the two were drinking, kissing and dancing at a bar at the former U.S. Naval base at Subic Bay before moving to a van, where she originally told the court she was raped while she passed out. Smith had insisted the sex was consensual.

The turnabout has shocked her supporters, including lawyer Evalyn Ursua, who said her client terminated her services this week then moved to the U.S. to start a new life and was no longer willing to talk.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the woman could be charged with perjury and her affidavit may not be admitted as new evidence because it should have been introduced during the 2006 trial.

"I am not happy with her because her accusations divided the nation, then she turns her back on everything," he said, adding the case had affected the country's foreign policy.

Seoul rules out closing economic zone in North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea ruled out closing a lucrative, symbolic joint industrial complex in North Korea on Wednesday despite recent border disruptions, and warned it would take firm action if Pyongyang shut down the crossing again.

The North Korean military severed the only communications hot line between the two Koreas and repeatedly has restricted workers and cargo from passing through the border to protest South Korean-U.S. military drills that began March 9 and will continue across the South through Friday.

North Korean officials fully opened the border Tuesday after four days of restrictions and was allowing workers passage Wednesday, South Korean officials said.

But the arbitrary border shutdowns have raised concerns about the future of the industrial complex in the North Korean border city of Kaesong, a joint venture considered a shining example of inter-Korean cooperation after decades of animosity and a lucrative source of hard currency for the communist regime.

"We are not considering shutting down" the Kaesong complex, Unifica-

tion Minister Hyun In-taek, the Cabinet's chief policymaker on North Korea, told reporters Wednesday.

Hyun warned that Seoul would consider another shutdown "very grave" and would "take necessary steps" to ensure workers and cargo can cross through the border.

Relations between the two Koreas have steadily deteriorated since President Lee Myung-bak took office a year ago with a new, tough policy on Pyongyang. One by one, joint projects developed during the previous era of warming ties have been suspended.

Sri Lanka deaths blamed on lack of medical supply

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A lack of medical supplies has led to the needless deaths of hundreds of hospital patients in parts of northern Sri Lanka ravaged by civil war, the regions' top health officials said.

The international Red Cross said conditions for civilians were "deteriorating by the day," and the U.N. Children's Fund said thousands of children were at risk because of "a critical lack of food, water and medicines."

In a letter to the Health Ministry, officials from two northern Sri Lankan regions said just 5 percent of the needed drugs and dressings were received in the last quarter of 2008 and the first part of this year.

The letter, seen Tuesday by The Associated Press, was signed by the health officers of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. Kilinochchi was the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam until it was overrun by government troops in early January.

The last remaining remnants of the rebels are fighting in Mullaitivu to hold on to a shrinking swath of land—estimated at 13.5 square miles (35 square kilometers)—on the northeast coast.

The letter said more than 500 patients died since January after arriving at hospitals and that thou-

sands of others may have died outside of hospitals.

"Most of the hospital deaths could have been prevented if basic infrastructure facilities and essential medicines were made available," it said.

On Tuesday, a further 23 patients died out of 108 wounded civilians taken to a makeshift hospital in the northeast, said Kandasamy Tharmakulasingham, a hospital administrative officer. Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said any letter coming out of the rebel territory is "suspicious and subject to verification." He declined further response until he could consult senior health officials.

The U.N. says 150,000 to 180,000 civilians, displaced from Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, are trapped in the war zone. The government says the figure is much lower, and on Tuesday the Sri Lankan president told the U.N. chief Tamil rebels are holding the civilians by force.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a phone conversation with President Mahinda Rajapaksa, asked about food, medicine and essential supplies in the country's northern war zone, as well as civilians' safety and facilities for displaced people, the president's office said.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen kill 3 police, 1 guard in NW Pakistan

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—Dozens of gunmen opened fire at a university in a northwest Pakistan region near the Afghan border early Wednesday, killing three police officers and a security guard, authorities said. The attack occurred in Lower Dir, which borders Pakistan's militant-plagued tribal regions and is near the Swat Valley, where the government recently agreed to impose Islamic law to strike a peace deal with the Tali-

ban. Local police official Pervez Rahim said the gunmen's identity was not clear, but that they fired upon police who were in a vehicle guarding the school. A university security guard was also shot and died on the spot, Rah said.

6 dead as Philippine troops battle kidnappers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine marines and al-Qaida-linked militants holding three Red Cross workers clashed for a second day Tuesday, leav-

ing three militants and three troops dead, officials said. There was no word on the fate of the hostages—a Swiss, an Italian and a Filipino—held for more than two months. The International Committee of the Red Cross expressed concern they could be hurt in a military rescue. The fighting erupted Monday when Abu Sayyaf gunmen led by Albader Parad tried to break out of a loose cordon by government forces to box in dozens of militants and their hostages in hilly jungle near southern Jolo island's Indanan

township. Clashes resumed Tuesday, killing three militants and three marines and wounding 19 troops, said military spokesman Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Pangilinan and Jolo Gov. Abdusakur Tan.

Indonesia cleric detained for marrying 12-year-old

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A Muslim cleric whose marriage to a 12-year-old girl triggered controversy in Indonesia has been detained for violating child protection laws, police said Wednesday.

Cleric Pujiono Cahyo Widiyanto, 43, wed the girl before thousands of people in Central Java province last August, arguing that he had committed no crime because he intended to wait until she reached puberty before consummating their relationship. Police Detective Roy Siahaan said the cleric, who runs an Islamic boarding school and several businesses, was officially named a criminal suspect Tuesday following several days of questioning. He has not been charged but is in police detention.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Army puts Madagascar opposition leader in charge

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP)—Madagascar's top generals handed over control of this Indian Ocean island nation to the opposition leader on Tuesday, hours after the president himself stepped down and tried to put the military in charge. In a ceremony broadcast from a military camp in the capital, Vice-Admiral Hyppolite Rarison Ramaroson said he and two other generals rejected President Marc Ravalomanana's attempt to transfer power to a military directorate. Instead, Ramaroson said the military was installing the president's bitter rival, opposition leader Andry Rajoelina, as the country's leader. For months, Rajoelina—a disc jockey turned broadcasting magnate who had been mayor of Antananarivo, the capital—has been leading anti-government rallies and pressing Ravalomanana to step down. Some protests have led to deadly clashes.

Iran: Leading candidate vows Islamic-based reform

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's leading reformist challenger to hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in upcoming elections vowed Tuesday to pursue democratic reforms but also stay true to the country's Islamic values. The comments by former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi were his first since another top reformist candidate, former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, pulled out of the race late Monday in a bid to unify the forces seeking to oust Ahmadinejad. Mousavi pledged Tuesday to follow the same Islamic values Khatami adheres to in implementing reforms. "Like you, I believe the correct path is reforms that return to (Islamic) principles but refine them," Mousavi said in a message to Khatami. A copy of Mousavi's statement was made available to The Associated Press.

Egypt pressured to end underground organ trade

CAIRO (AP)—The poverty of Cairo's slums forced a young couple to sell nearly everything they had. When that wasn't enough, each of them sold a kidney. The clandestine pre-dawn operation in a small private hospital ended with the man and wife being dumped semiconscious in taxis—the payment for their kidneys tucked into their clothes, they say. Now, a year later, penniless once more, they are too weak to even move around their apartment. Unable to afford follow-up care, their health is so fragile they spend much of the day in bed in a dark room. "If anyone had made clear to me the danger, I wouldn't have done it," said Abdel-Rahman Abdel-Aziz, gaunt and looking older than his 24 years as he lay in bed beside his wife. He pulled up his sweatshirt to show the scar from the operation.

Daughter confronts Austrian incest father in video

ST. POELTEN, Austria (AP)—The woman who bore seven children through incest and was allegedly locked in a squalid dungeon for 24 years confronted her father Tuesday in a videotape shown in court—testimony that could send him to prison for life. Josef Fritzl, 73, has been charged with murder, enslavement, incest and rape in a case that has drawn media attention from around the world for its shocking allegations.

On Tuesday, jurors, Fritzl and the rest of the court viewed videotaped testimony from his daughter Elisabeth, the key witness against Fritzl. Now 42, she was 18 when he allegedly imprisoned her in the cramped, windowless cell he built beneath the family's home in Amstetten.

Fritzl watched his daughter's testimony "very carefully and very attentively and provided answers to questions" by the prosecutor, jury and judge, court spokesman Franz Cutka told reporters after the closed-door session.

Those in court also saw videotaped testimony from Harald, one of Elisabeth's brothers, Cutka said.

Fritzl has pleaded guilty to incest with Elisabeth and false imprisonment, but is contesting negligent homicide and enslavement charges against him and has acknowledged only partial guilt on rape and coercion charges.

Fritzl has been charged with homicide in the death of an infant—a male twin born to Elisabeth in April 1996—who prosecutors say might have survived with



Defendant Josef Fritzl, center, is escorted to a break during the second day of his trial at the provincial courthouse in St. Poelten, Austria, on Tuesday March 17, 2009.

proper medical care had he and his mother not been locked in the basement.

Police say DNA tests prove Fritzl is the biological father of all six of Elisabeth's surviving children, three of whom never saw daylight until the crime came to light 11 months ago.

Fritzl could spend the rest of his life

in prison if convicted of homicide. He faces up to 20 years behind bars if found guilty of enslavement, up to 15 for a rape conviction, and one year for an incest conviction.

Fritzl again hid his face behind a blue binder and stayed silent Tuesday as he was led into the court in St. Poelten, west

of Vienna, for the second day of his trial.

Reporters were not allowed into the courtroom Tuesday, but Cutka said they would be let in for part of Wednesday's session. He said the jury was expected to start its deliberations Thursday morning and a verdict could come as early as Thursday afternoon.

Bush refuses to criticize Obama in Canada

CALGARY, Alberta (AP)—Former President George W. Bush said he won't criticize President Barack Obama because Obama "deserves my silence," and said he plans to write a book about the 12 toughest decisions he made in office. Bush declined to critique the Obama administration Tuesday in his first speech since leaving office. Former Vice President Dick Cheney has said that Obama's decisions are threatening America's safety.

"I'm not going to spend my time criticizing him. There are plenty of critics in the arena," Bush said. "He

deserves my silence."

Bush said he wants Obama to succeed and said it's important that he has that support. Talk-show host Rush Limbaugh has said he hoped Obama would fail.

"I love my country a lot more than I love politics," Bush said. "I think it is essential that he be helped in office."

Bush said that he doesn't know what he will do in the long term but that he will write a book that will ask people to consider what they would do if they had to protect the United State as president.

He said it will be fun to write and that

"it's going to be (about) the 12 toughest decisions I had to make."

"I'm going to put people in my place, so when the history of this administration is written at least there's an authoritarian voice saying exactly what happened," Bush said.

"I want people to understand what it was like to sit in the Oval Office and have them come in and say we have captured Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, the alleged killer of a guy named Danny Pearl because he was simply Jewish, and we think we have information on

further attacks on the United States."

Bush didn't specify what the 12 hardest decisions were but said Iraq is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

Bush was also full of jokes throughout his speech and during a question and answer session with former Canadian Ambassador in Washington Frank McKenna.

He joked that he would do more speeches to pay for his new house in Dallas.

"I actually paid for a house last fall. I think I'm the only American to have bought a house in the fall of 2008," he quipped.

On Africa trip, pope says condoms won't solve AIDS

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI said condoms are not the answer to the AIDS epidemic in Africa and can make the problem worse, setting off criticism Tuesday as he began a weeklong trip to the continent where some 22 million people are living with HIV.

Benedict's first statement on an issue that has divided even Catholic clergy working with AIDS patients came hours before he arrived in Cameroon's capital—greeted by thousands of flag-waving faithful who stood shoulder-to-shoulder in red dirt fields and jammed downtown streets for a glimpse of the pontiff's motorcade.

In his four years as pope, Benedict had never directly addressed condom use, although his position is not new. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, often said that sexual abstinence—not condoms—was the best way to prevent the spread of the disease.

Benedict also said the Roman Catholic Church was at the forefront of the battle against AIDS.

"You can't resolve it with the distribution of condoms," the pope told reporters aboard the Alitalia plane heading to Yaounde. "On the contrary, it increases the problem."

The pope said a responsible and moral attitude toward sex would help fight the disease, as he answered questions submitted in advance by reporters traveling on the plane. His response was presumably also prepared in advance.

The Catholic Church rejects the use of condoms as part of its overall teaching against artificial contraception. Senior Vatican officials have advocated fidelity in marriage and abstinence from premarital sex as key weapons in the fight against AIDS.

The late Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo made headlines in 2003 for saying that condoms may help spread AIDS through a false sense of security, claiming they weren't effective in blocking transmission of the virus. The cardinal, who died last year, headed the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family.

Russia: US, NATO actions mean new arms are needed

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's defense minister on Tuesday accused the United States of beefing up its military presence near Russian borders and poaching for mineral wealth there, signaling that Moscow could take a tough position in upcoming talks with Barack Obama's new administration.

Anatoly Serdyukov's statement—made alongside President Dmitry Medvedev at a meeting of the military's top brass—reflected deeply entrenched Russian suspicions despite Obama's desire to improve relations with Moscow.

Medvedev, meanwhile, cited NATO expansion, international terrorism and regional conflicts as reasons why upgrading Russia's nuclear forces was the top priority in an ambitious military modernization plan that he pledged to pursue despite the worst economic crisis in a decade.

Relations with Russia plunged to a post-Cold War low under the previous U.S. administration, whose plans to build missile defense sites in eastern Europe and bring ex-Soviet republics into NATO angered Moscow.

Medvedev's first meeting with Obama next month will set the tone for talks over a new arms control treaty and other major disputes—and Russia is signaling that it will be a tough negotiating partner.

"U.S. aspirations have been aimed at getting access to raw materials, energy and other resources" of ex-Soviet nations, Serdyukov told military officers. "Active support was given to the processes aimed at pushing Russia out of the sphere of its traditional interests."

Moscow has fiercely opposed plans to put Ukraine and Georgia on track to NATO membership. Russian officials also hope the Obama administration will cancel plans to deploy missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Moscow has raised the stakes by threatening to deploy missiles next to Poland if the U.S. goes ahead with the missile shield.

Russia is also deeply wary of any U.S. presence in oil- and gas-rich Central Asia, which Moscow considers its historic sphere of influence.

Environment

Deleting the paper from mail

By **ALANA SEMUELS**
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

The post office doesn't deliver mail to Steven Stark's Santa Maria, Calif., home anymore.

It's not that Stark, the 36-year-old owner of an Internet company, is unpopular. He just decided that he'd rather deal with all of his correspondence online.

Millions of Americans receive online versions of their bills and bank statements. But Stark is one of tens of thousands who have decided they don't need any physical mail, be it love letters or advertising come-ons.

Instead of plodding down to the mailbox, they open their Web browsers. Rather than stuff file cabinets with paper, they keep their mail online.

Analysts say it's too soon to tell whether digital mail is the next big thing, and skeptics, including the U.S. Postal Service, abound. Still, as consumers become more tied to the digital world, Web-based snail mail services are expanding.

Beginning April 27, Swiss Post, Switzerland's national postal operator, will use the technology developed by Earth Class Mail of Seattle, the same company Stark uses, to deliver regular mail online in six European countries.

"There is a real desire for such a service," said Benoit Stroelin, head of finance at Swiss Post Solutions.

Scanning correspondence and putting it online is the "middle step" in a march toward the future of all-digital delivery, Stroelin said. Early adopters such as Stark give a glimpse into how that might look.

Earth Class Mail assigned him a post office box in Los Angeles. For \$11.95 a month, the company opens all of his mail—letters, bills, catalogs and all—then scans and uploads it to the Web so he can read his correspondence online.

Stark doesn't have to give the post office his new address every time he moves. He can go on vacation and not miss any mail. By checking a box on his computer screen, Stark can tell the company to shred, recycle or forward the mail to him. He can have the company send packages to his



A worker at Earth Class Mail's controlled-access, video-monitored facility in Beaverton, Ore., scans a client's snail mail into digital form to be read online.

house or pick them up at the nearest Earth Class Mail Center.

"It's just more convenient," he said.

Convenience has its cost. The \$11.95 fee includes 50 pages scanned a month and unlimited recycling and shredding. Each extra page scanned costs 25 cents. Like a cell phone plan, customers can pay more to have higher limits.

Members are assigned either a post office box or a generic mailing address in Beaverton, Ore., where Earth Class Mail has a sorting facility. Customers who want a premium address, even a false one, can pay extra. Manhattan costs \$29.95, and West Hollywood or San Francisco cost \$23.95.

For the average American, digital mail won't take over any time soon.

Security is obviously a big concern. Worries about mail fraud and identity theft may slow the shift. Although having someone else open your mail reduces the chances you'll get anthrax poisoning, it also "opens up another way that the customers' information can be compromised," said Stan Stahl, president of information security firm Citadel Infor-

mation Group.

Earth Class Mail, which has 115 employees, tries to limit risk. Employees need key cards to enter the mail rooms. They wear pocketless jumpsuits to make it tougher for them to remove correspondence, and are monitored by security cameras as they sort and scan the mail.

But there are outside risks, Stahl said. Computer hackers could break into the database of scanned mail if the network isn't secure enough, he said, and if mail becomes completely digital, the number of viruses passed by that medium probably will increase.

While picking up mail at a Los Angeles post office branch recently, Gemmandy Priutsky, a federal housing official, said he'd never want his mail delivered online. His identity was stolen after someone pilfered mail from his home last year, so now he visits his post office box six days a week.

"There are too many fraudulent activities online," he said.

Most older people are more comfortable using snail mail to pay their bills and send goods, and many younger people skip mail entirely and just use the In-

ternet, said Michael Gartenberg, vice president of strategy and analysis for Interpret, a media and technology research firm.

"It will probably take a good deal of this generation to die off before we actually make that transition," Gartenberg said.

The U.S. Postal Service has experimented over the last decade with offering digital versions of some of its core services, but "people weren't comfortable," agency spokeswoman Susan Brennan said. Many services were discontinued by 2003, although the post office still offers a Web service that allows users to design cards, which it will print out and send.

"First-class mail is the most secure way to communicate in this country," Brennan said.

That hasn't stopped companies such as Zumbox Inc. from trying to push the digital envelope.

The Los Angeles company created an online mailbox for every residential address in the country. Companies can send marketing material, bills and other mail digitally to the Zumbox account affiliated with the street address. Zumbox says the system adds convenience because customers can see all

their correspondence through one Web account.

Zumbox is free for users, and advertisers pay 5 cents per address for a piece of sent mail. Businesses can target neighborhoods with digitally delivered mail without spending money on postage, Zumbox founder Glen Ward said. The company recently signed a

deal to deliver newsletters and other government communication such as water bills from the Village of New Lenox, Ill., in digital form to its citizens' Zumbox accounts.

"We are convinced it's the way to go," New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann said. "It's good for the environment, and it's good for our taxpayers."

EPA launches 'Fix a Leak Week' to encourage water efficiency

Because minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes, EPA is launching its first "Fix a Leak Week" to remind Americans of the environmental and economic benefits to fixing leaks from household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems.

To kick off Fix a Leak Week, WaterSense part-

ON THE NET

WaterSense: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak/>

ners in Arizona are demonstrating, through a visual display at a Phoenix home, the amount of water wasted by leaks in just one week. Through the display, WaterSense partners will demonstrate leaky toilets, faucets, and showerheads to show how household leaks can waste more than 200 gallons in seven days, identify leak sources inside the home and demonstrate how to fix them.

In most cases, fixture replacement parts can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and

pay for themselves in a short amount of time. Remember to look for the WaterSense label if you have to replace a bathroom fixture.

Here are a few water-saving tips:

Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and, if neces-

sary, replace the faucet with a WaterSense labeled model.

Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home up to 200 gallons of water per day.

For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

Landscape irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure they are not damaged by frost or freezing. (EPA)

Top 25 US cities with the most Energy Star buildings

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings in 2008 that have earned EPA's Energy Star.

The list is headed by Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, D.C., Dallas-Fort Worth, Chi-

cago, Denver, Minneapolis-St Paul, Atlanta and Seattle.

"Energy Star buildings typi-

cally use 35 percent less energy and emit 35 percent less greenhouse gases than average buildings," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "EPA commends all of these cities and all of the others, as well as countless individuals, who are now using more energy efficient appliances and dwellings. They are saving energy, saving money and protecting our environment."

In 2008, more than 3,300 commercial buildings and manufacturing plants earned the Energy Star—EPA's label for high efficiency—representing savings of more

than \$1 billion in utility bills and more than 7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. These buildings include schools, hospitals, office buildings, courthouses, grocery stores, retail centers and auto assembly plants.

The total for Energy Star qualifying buildings and plants

in America is now more than 6,200 with overall annual utility savings of more than \$1.7 bil-

lion and the pre-

vention of the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 2 million cars a year.

Energy use in commercial buildings and manufacturing plants accounts for nearly half of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and nearly half of energy consumption nationwide. For more than a decade, EPA has worked with businesses and organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through this voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. (EPA)

Prevent poisonings: Lock up pesticides

EPA is observing National Poison Prevention Week March 15-21 to increase awareness of the danger to children of unintentional exposures

from pesticides and household products. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to lock up products that could potentially

harm children.

These simple steps can help prevent poisonings:

■ Store household products in a locked cabinet or shed away from children and pets.

■ Read the product label first and follow directions to the letter.

■ Never leave products unattended when you are using them.

■ Never transfer pesticides to other containers.

Every 13 seconds, U.S. poison control centers receive a call about someone being exposed to a poison. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that more than 50 percent of the 2 million exposure incidents each year involve children younger than six years

CONTACT INFO

The National Poison Center
hotline: 1-800-222-1222

ON THE NET

More information on poison prevention: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm>

Life & Style

Injured Natasha Richardson reportedly in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony-winning actress Natasha Richardson, part of the Redgrave dynasty of British actors, was flown to New York on Tuesday after apparently being injured in a skiing accident. Varying reports swirled about her condition—some saying she was seriously hurt. IrishCentral.com reported that the wife of Liam Neeson was in critical condition with a head injury.

In Los Angeles, a person close to the family, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter, confirmed that Richardson landed in New York after leaving Montreal's Sacre-Coeur hospital in the afternoon, where she was treated after falling during a private lesson Monday at the famed Mont Tremblant ski resort.

The person did not say if or where the actress was being treated in New York.

Richardson, 45, is the elder daughter of Oscar-winning actress Vanessa Redgrave and the late director Tony Richardson, and belongs to the British acting dynasty.

"We know that she has had an accident but we really do not know any more de-

tails," said Kika Markham, who is married to Richardson's uncle, Corin Redgrave. "We are very concerned."

A statement from the Mont Tremblant resort said Richardson fell on a beginners trail and later reported not feeling well.

"She did not show any visible sign of injury but the ski patrol followed strict procedures and brought her back to the bottom of the slope and insisted she should see a doctor," said the statement from the resort, about 80 miles northwest of Montreal.

The ski resort said the instructor and a member of the ski patrol accompanied Richardson to her hotel, where they again recommended she should be



In this Oct. 10, 2007 file photo, actors Natasha Richardson, left, and Liam Neeson arrive at the Conde Nast Traveler Readers Choice awards at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York.

seen by a doctor.

Mont Tremblant spokeswoman Catherine Lacasse said Richardson said she was fine at first.

"An hour later she said she didn't

feel well. She had a headache, so we sent her to the hospital," Lacasse said. "There were no signs of impact and no blood, nothing."

An ambulance was called and Rich-

ardson eventually was transferred to Sacre-Coeur hospital in Montreal.

Neeson immediately left the Toronto set of his upcoming movie, "Chloe," for Montreal, a publicist for the film said.

Richardson's films include "Gothic," "A Month in the Country," "Nell" (in which she appeared with her future husband), "The Parent Trap" and "Maid in Manhattan."

Trained at London's Central School of Speech and Drama, Richardson has had extensive stage experience in the West End and Broadway. She won a Tony in 1998 for playing Sally Bowles in a revival of "Cabaret."

Her maternal grandparents were the actors Michael Redgrave and Rachel Kempson, and her uncle Corin and aunt Lynn Redgrave are both actors. Sister Joely Richardson is also an actress, best known for starring in the TV series "Nip/Tuck."

In January, Richardson and her mother played the roles of mother and daughter in a one-night benefit concert version of "A Little Night Music," the Stephen Sondheim-Hugh Wheeler musical, at Studio 54 in New York.

She married Neeson in 1994, and the couple have two sons, aged 13 and 12.

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—When "Race to Witch Mountain" director Andy Fickman wanted to track down Kim Richards, the former child star who appeared in the original 1975 version, "Escape to Witch Mountain," he sought a seemingly unlikely ally: Paris Hilton.

As it turns out, Hilton is the niece of Richards, who had all but disappeared from the Hollywood scene 20 years earlier.

"My first crush was on Kim Richards. She had long blond hair. It was 90 feet long," the director reminisced. And as he geared up to make his own version of the mythology—which stars Dwayne Johnson and opened Friday, bringing in an estimated \$25 million over the weekend—he also wanted to find Ike Eissinmann, who played Richards' character's brother, Tony, in the first film and in "Return from Witch Mountain," the 1978 sequel. "No one was cooler than Ike."

So with Hilton's aid, Fickman called up Richards—now a single mom living in Malibu with a brood of four—and started babbling his adoration of her. He took her to lunch on the Disney lot and tossed out ideas of how she and Eissinmann, whom he tracked down in Florida, could be wound into the new story line.

"He said, 'I don't know what you want to do. I was kind of thinking maybe you and Ike could be hovering over in a spaceship, or you could be the parents of the kids,'" Richards said. She laughed heartily at that thought. "'We're brother and sister. We can't do that!'" she told him.

Last week, Richards and Eissinmann were having coffee at the bar of the Four Seasons hotel before the premiere of the film, in which they both have small roles—he as the sheriff of the sleepy town of Stony Creek and she as a waitress; both wittingly and unwittingly

A reunion on 'Witch Mountain'



Ike Eissinmann and Kim Richards, who played brother and sister in the original "Witch Mountain," play a sheriff and a waitress in the remake.

tingly help the two alien children as they try to escape from the evil government operatives on their tail.

At 44, Richards, once a ubiquitous TV and film star, remains perky and high-energy, a cute Malibu mom with long, bleached-blond hair. The sloping eyes and aquiline nose bear a distinct family resemblance to her now ultra-famous niece.

Eissinmann (who in his childhood spelled his name as Ike Eisenmann) is far more laconic.

The two said they first met when they screen-tested for the original "Witch Mountain." Richards was already a screen veteran, and Eissinmann said he was cynical, despite being 12. He had been acting professionally since he was 9 and had failed repeatedly to land a Disney movie, one of his ambi-

tions. "I was tired and I was jaded," he said, laughing, recalling that he didn't believe he was going to land the job. "Walking in, we were perfect brother and sister. There was no doubt."

Richards remembered fondly the experience of making the first movie, whether it was "this little dumpy hotel, this Motel 6" in Monterey, where all the cast and crew stayed, or the glorious kid-fantasy bedrooms in a mansion that served as home to the evil industrialist menacing the children. She added that she was told never to go downstairs at that set, because there was a pet gorilla in the basement.

"I don't really know if they were lying," Richards said.

"Of course there was. It was a pet gorilla," insisted Eissinmann.

Richards said she loved their co-

star Bruno, a giant brown bear that followed their characters through the woods. "I bathed him on weekends," she said. "He was like going home to your golden retriever."

"As small as we were, he was huge," Eissinmann said. "Very docile, very sweet, but he stunk to high heaven."

Even back then, Richards and Eissinmann were as different as they appear today. She spent her time on set, hamming around, playing cards with the crew and tricks on the director.

"This one," she said, pointing to Eissinmann, "played Frisbee, alone. He did. I'd be like, 'Ike, you want to play?' He'd be, 'I'm OK.' Then he'd draw these animated troll characters for hours."

"I was a little bit of a loner in those days," concurred Eissinmann, 46, al-

though he said he liked learning about the special effects. In this pre-"Star Wars" sci-fi flick, the gimmicks were pretty basic. The objects that were telekinetically transported on screen were actually simply hanging from fishing line. Occasionally, Eissinmann himself was the one suspended midair.

"Me jumping up into the air to catch the ball—I was pulled by a crane," Eissinmann said. He did, however, learn to play the harmonica, as his character controlled his telekinetic powers via music. "I thought I had to. Little did I know they were going to put in their own harmonica sound."

Richards remembered that the Los Angeles premiere of the old "Witch Mountain" was her first real encounter with crowd madness. "People were pounding on the limousine door" when she and her mother drove up to the theater, Richards said. "I had on this little white rabbit jacket and this little dress. I remember being a little girl, so scared; I couldn't see anything, not one speck of daylight. Just people pounding. My mom said, 'Kimmy, what do you think they want?'"

"I think they want to get my coat," Richards recalled herself saying. "I didn't realize it was me."

For the past two decades, Richards devoted herself to full-time mothering and has been a volunteer at her children's schools. She recently began acting again and had a small role in Craig Brewer's 2006 film "Black Snake Moan." Eissinmann went on to work as a painter making large-scale photo-realistic drawings, primarily nudes, and also as a voice-over artist in animation. Several years ago, he left Los Angeles for Orlando, Fla., where he opened a digital animation studio.

Richards said she was still recognized on an almost daily basis. She also occasionally catches herself on TV. "I will be flipping through the dial, and then it's, 'Oh my gosh, look how little I was. I was so cute. What happened?'"

Amy Winehouse pleads innocent to assault

First celebrity cast off of 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The lead Go-Go is gone from "Dancing With the Stars."

Belinda Carlisle was the first celebrity eliminated from the eighth season of the hit ABC show. The 50-year-old singer and her professional partner, Jonathan Roberts, went toe to toe—literally—with fellow low-scoring couple Steve Wozniak and his partner, Karina Smirnoff, in the show's first dance-off.

Each duo repeated their Monday night dance for new scores from the judges. Each earned 17 points out of 30, but viewer votes kept Apple co-founder Wozniak on the show for another week.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which couple is eliminated each week. The new

dance-off approach allows the two lowest-scoring couples to earn extra points from judges for command performances of their best dance. Viewer votes still count for 50 percent of each couple's final score, host Tom Bergeron said.

Head judge Len Goodman criticized Carlisle's salsa Monday for its lack of "hip action." She improved Tuesday, he said, but lost her footwork as a result.

Carlisle said she did the best she could.

"I had a great time," she said. "I learned how to dance and I wish I could have done better for Jonathan, because he's a great teacher."

Carlisle came into Tuesday's results show with 35 points out of 60. Wozniak was in last place with 30 points.



In this image released by ABC, Jonathan Roberts and his partner Belinda Carlisle perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, March 9, 2009, in Los Angeles.

LONDON (AP)—Singer Amy Winehouse turned a court appearance into a spring fashion show Tuesday as she pleaded innocent to assaulting a fan at a party last year.

The 25-year-old star known for battles with addiction and frequent run-ins with the law stepped out of a car wearing a low-cut floral mini-dress and her trademark beehive hairdo. Paparazzi flashed away at their first sighting of the diva since she returned from an extended break on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

Winehouse, who has been in and out of rehab, looked healthier than in recent appearances and appeared to be in good spirits. She covered her bosom in faux modesty as she entered the courtroom.

Once inside the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, she confirmed her name and date of birth and pleaded not guilty to a charge of common assault.

Winehouse gave her name as Amy Jade Civil. Her husband of two years, Blake Fielder-Civil, has filed for divorce.

Her lawyer, Mark Haslam, apologized for what he called the singer's slightly late arrival in court, saying she had left her north London home more than two hours earlier but had been delayed.

Judge Timothy Workman ordered Winehouse to attend a new hearing at the same court on July 23. She was released on unconditional bail.

Winehouse's drug problems have been front page news in Britain, where she was pictured puffing on what appeared to be a crack pipe last year. She was fined for illegally possessing marijuana in Norway in 2007, and also got a police warning in April of last year after scuffling with two men during a night out on the town in Camden, a north London neighborhood known for its music scene and drug culture.



British singer Amy Winehouse is assisted as she leaves Westminster Magistrates Court in London, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, where she pleaded not guilty to a charge of common assault, over an incident at a charity ball.

Imus in Mass. a day after his cancer announcement

BOSTON (AP)—Don Imus told listeners Tuesday that he assumes he'll be fine in his battle with prostate cancer, because that's what he always thinks.

The 68-year-old radio personality bantered with listeners at Boston radio station WTKK-FM during his live annual St. Patrick's Day "Kiss Me, I'm Imus" show, the day after announcing he has cancer.

Imus said that when he was fired from a previous job, he assumed, "I'll be fine," and he was right. He's taking the same attitude with the cancer. He also mixed in chat about politics, culture and current events in front of a live audience of about 950 people at the Wilbur Theatre.

He talked to Sen. John

Kerry, D-Mass., who was also treated for prostate cancer, about the economy and outrage over reports of huge bonuses for AIG executives.

Imus told Kerry that his cancer has so far been limited to the prostate and has not spread.

"You're going to be all right, I'm convinced," Kerry said.

Imus announced Monday that he has cancer on his morning show, which airs on ABC Radio Network and cable's RFD-TV.

Imus said he was surprised more than anything about the diagnosis, since he's followed a healthy diet for the past decade. As he sipped green tea during Tuesday's broadcast, Kerry told him to keep drinking it for the

health benefits.

Imus has "enormous faith" in his doctors, he said, and joked there was no point in having cancer if he couldn't gain something from it.

When fellow broadcaster Warner Wolf said everyone was pulling for him, Imus said, "I want some proof of that, like a gift or something."

Bill Trail, a 62-year-old Boston sales manager who watched the live broadcast from the theater balcony, said his own prostate cancer gives him an understanding of what Imus is experiencing. Trail said he is undergoing radiation treatments for his cancer.

"It's not a life-altering kind of thing as long as they do the right thing," Trail said. "It'll be an inconvenience to him but I don't think it'll interrupt his career at all—or his lifestyle."



Imus

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late



Albert S. Toves Jr.

(Original Sand Painter)

Extend our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for all your support and for sharing with us your love, prayers, and condolences during our moments of sorrow which in many ways gave us the strength and courage since the passing of the Original Sand Painter, Albert S. Toves Jr. Your presence during the nightly mass and rosary has helped us spiritually to ease the pain and sorrow we endured.

We wish to extend special thanks to the Rota Health Center Staff, Dr. James Toskas, Dr. Francois Klaassen, RHC Nurses and Staff, Rota Department of Public Safety; Rota Fire Department; Surgical Ward Staff, Recovery Room Staff, and ICU Staff, Guam Memorial Hospital; Dr. Ronald Koboyashi, Dr. Lizama, Dr. Duenas, Nurses and Staff, Guam-CNMI Medical Referral Office Staff, Santa Fe Hotel and Staff, San Augustin's Funeral Home; Saint Anthony Church and Choir (Guam); Freedom Air; San Antonio Church and Choir (Saipan); San Isidro Church and Choir; San Francisco De Borja Church and Choir; the Gilitaz Dancers; Guelu' and Che'lu (*Kulu Tribute*); Office of the Mayor of Rota and Staff, 12th Rota Municipal Council and Staff, CPA Board Officers, CNMI Arts Council, 10th Legislative Delegation, Bobbie Taisakan who leads the nine days rosary, relatives and friends from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam, and the U.S. and Saipan Tribune.

May GOD Bless You All.

Wife, Children and Family

'American Idol' launching trading card line



LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" fans will soon be able to trade Carrie Underwoods for Danny Gokeys.

"Idol" production company FremantleMedia and trading card publisher Upper Deck are launching a new line of trading cards featuring images of past and current contestants as well as the judges and host of the Fox singing competition. The 138-card line is set to debut April 21.

"The 'American Idol' brand has always been really strong in the interactive space," said Nora Wong, FremantleMedia senior manager of consumer products. "With the trading cards, it's an old school way of interacting with the fans. It's another form of expression for the fans to demonstrate their connection with the show and collect their favorites."

Six special cards autographed by past "Idols" will be randomly slipped into the five-card packs. Regular

In this trading card image released by FremantleMedia and trading card publisher Upper Deck, an "American Idol" trading card featuring judge Paula Abdul, is shown.

AP

Booted Idols say they lived like stars

NEW YORK (AP)—Jorge Nunez and Jasmine Murray may not be the next American idols but at least they got to feel like they were for a short time.

One thing they will miss after being voted off Fox's popular singing competition is the mansion in which contestants were housed. The LA dream pad is new this season.

"'American Idol' spoiled us. They treated us like stars," 16-year-old Jasmine Murray says.

Jorge Nunez, 20, jokes that the mansion was so big, it was tiring.

"If I left something upstairs like my cell phone, I'd be like, 'Oh, I don't care

who calls me. ...' At night, I'd go wondering around discovering new places. It's like wonderland," Nunez says.

"They had two pools, a bowling alley, big rehearsal room. It was the most amazing house I'd ever seen in my life and I never thought I'd be living in that," Murray adds.

Both Nunez and Murray received rejections twice during last week's results show: first, by getting the lowest number of votes; second by not receiving the judges "save," a new clause allowing the judges to vote once to save a contestant from elimi-



AP

American Idol singers Jorge Nunez, left, and Jasmine Murray pose for a portrait, Tuesday, March 17, 2009 in New York.

nation until the top five.

"In the end, I think what happened was meant to happen," Nunez says.

Anoop Desai goes country, wows Cowell and company

NEW YORK (AP)—The "American Idol" judges are willing to give Anoop Desai one more chance to keep them satisfied.

The 21-year-old college student from North Carolina impressed tough critic Simon Cowell and the rest of the panel with his soulful cover of "Always on My Mind" during Tuesday night's Grand Ole Opry-themed performance show.

Cowell—who criticized Desai's rendition of Michael Jackson's "Beat It" last week—changed his tune, saying Desai "managed to go from zero to hero" thanks to stellar vocals and choice of the song. "Always on My Mind" has been recorded by Willie Nelson, Elvis Presley and others.

Desai, who prefers R&B music, told Ryan Seacrest he wasn't surprised by the positive response. He said he expects "to do the best" he can.

In this file photo image released by FOX, contestant Anoop Desai performs on the singing competition show, "American Idol," on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP



Paul Rudd's awkward side back in 'I Love You, Man'



AP

In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Andy Samberg and Paul Rudd, right, are shown in a scene from "I Love You, Man."

NEW YORK (AP)—When Paul Rudd tells an embarrassing story, he leaves in details other celebrities might be too proud to reveal.

The 39-year-old actor cringes with amusement as he remembers the time, less than two weeks ago, when he got caught in an awkward situation while promoting his new comedy "I Love You, Man" in Toronto. Rudd, taking a bathroom break with co-star Jason Segel before a TV interview, thought it'd be funny to pull his drawers down to his ankles.

The joke scored laughs from his one-man audience, recalls Rudd, but backfired when Segel walked out the door and a stranger entered.

"I'm pulling my pants up in front of a urinal and my (rear end) is sticking out and the guy just like, walks in," Rudd said during a recent interview.

He tried to explain, but it was no use. According to Segel, said Rudd, the unwitting bystander "walked to his friend, kind of shaken, and said 'You won't believe what I just saw.'"

He says things like that happen to him all the time—which comes as no surprise, given Rudd's special knack for spinning awkward moments into comedy gold. Rudd serves up massive doses of that awkwardness—and likability—in his latest role as an insecure, squarish real estate agent in "I Love You Man," directed by John Hamburg, which opens Friday.

Rudd's character, Peter, has always focused on a girlfriend, at the expense of male friendships, and has no close friends to be best man at his wedding. So embarks on some failed man dates to find Mr. Right, eventually clicking with easygoing bachelor Sydney (Segel), who shows up at an open house for the free food and lusty divorcees.

Peter tries to impress Sydney, making jokes that fall flat (he randomly

and Jennifer Hudson.

What about long-gone first season co-host Brian Dunkleman?

"That remains to be seen," said Wong.

calls his new pal "Jobin" in a futile effort to banter like a bro).

"I know that feeling of insecurity and overcompensation that I try to do with the character but I don't think I'm quite as awkward as some of those moments," said Rudd, adding: "But I can be."

Donald De Line, who produced the film, calls Rudd an authentic fit.

"He has that incredibly likable, open, sweet quality—kind of that Everyman quality—and at the same time, he just a little bit throws you off kilter," said De Line.

Rudd regularly appears in the films of Hollywood comedy mogul Judd Apatow, whose world is populated by geeky guys: The actor walked the line between stalkery and sweet-heart as a sad-sack electronics store employee pining for his ex in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." He played a put-upon husband in "Knocked Up" and an absent-minded surfer in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

"I imagine I just play average guys who—whatever they're going through—are relatable," Rudd said of his various alter egos. "That's what's interesting to me. I don't think I'd be a very good action guy."

Rudd, who lives in Manhattan with his wife, Julie, and 3-year-old son, is engaging and friendly during an interview, free-associating about the April issue of Vanity Fair declaring him a "new legend" of comedy (he jokes the true comic legends are Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed and Bagger Vance) and the term "bromance" (which he hopes "will die an ugly and painful death").

Not that he's ever had an issue with finding pals.

"My mother always said that I was good at making friends," he said, "and that I never had a friend that she would not adopt as her own son."

'Slumdog Millionaire' to hit China

HONG KONG (AP)—Academy Award-winning "Slumdog Millionaire" has secured a coveted slot as one of 20 major foreign movies that China will import this year, a distributor said Wednesday.

Many Hollywood movies miss out on the booming Chinese cinema market because of the annual quota, and others are weeded out by the censorship process. Chinese censors are wary of unflattering portrayals of the country and its people, explicit sex and violence and sensitive

topics like Tibet.

But "Slumdog Millionaire" cleared Chinese censors easily, Zhang Hongyan, a publicist for the distributor, Hong Kong-based Edko Film, told The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday.

Director Danny Boyle will attend the movie's premiere in Beijing next Wednesday, with the film going on general release in at least 2,000 theaters across China the next day, Zhang said.

"Slumdog Millionaire" tells the story of

an 18-year-old orphan who rises from the streets of Mumbai to become the biggest winner ever on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." It won eight Oscars, including best picture and best director for Boyle.

China only allows 20 foreign movie imports a year on a revenue-sharing basis, as opposed to buying distribution rights for a flat fee. Hollywood studios prefer the revenue-sharing model so they can make more money if the movie is a big hit.

Antonio Banderas buys stake in Spanish winery

MADRID (AP)—Hollywood heartthrob Antonio Banderas has joined a growing number of celebrities whose passion for wine has led to ownership of Spanish vineyards, his winery co-owners say.

Banderas, 48, who has appeared in the "Legend of Zorro" and as the voice of

Puss in Boots in several "Shrek" movies, has bought 50 percent of a state-of-the-art winery on the banks of the Duero River in northern Spain, the winery says.

The Spanish actor joins a list of owner-producers that includes American actor Michael Douglas, French star Gerard De-

pardieu and Spanish singer Joan Manuel Serrat.

The 230 hectare (570 acre) property, called Anta Banderas, makes red and rose wines from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and local grape Tempranillo, the winery said Tuesday in a statement.

Coy Watson Jr., silent era child actor, dies at 96

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coy Watson Jr., who appeared in Mack Sennett comedies and other silent films before abandoning acting for a long career as a newspaper and television news photographer, has died at 96.

Watson, who lived in the San Diego suburb of Alpine, died Saturday of complications of stomach cancer, his daughter, Pattie Watson Price, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Born in 1912, Watson made his film debut as a baby. He was one of nine siblings who all went into the movie business, as did his father, Coy Sr. The family was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1999.

"Acting to our family was not a business. It was our life. We never knew anything but

Parker Posey set for off-Broadway next season



In this March 15, 2009 file photo, actress Parker Posey attends the Metropolitan Opera 125th anniversary gala at Lincoln Center, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Parker Posey, everyone's favorite indie-film actress, is going off-Broadway next season.

Playwrights Horizons says Posey will be featured in "This," described as "an unromantic comedy" about the ups and downs of a woman turning 40. The play by Melissa James Gibson will be directed by Daniel Aukin. Dates of the engagement will be announced.

"This" is one of four world-premiere plays announced Tuesday for its 2009-2010 season by Playwrights Horizons. The other three are "Clybourne Park" by Bruce Norris, "The Retributionists" by Daniel Goldfarb and "Circle Mirror Transformation" by Annie Baker.



This image provided by Pattie Watson Price shows Jackie Coogan, left, and Coy Watson Jr. in a 1927 production of "Buttons."

the movies," Watson told the San Diego Union-Tribune in 2002.

His father was a cowboy who lived on the edge of downtown Los Angeles when that area was still rural, and he rented horses to the makers of some of Hollywood's earliest Westerns.

That led the elder Watson to a long career behind the camera in special effects and as an assistant director.

Coy Jr. recounted in his memoir, "The Keystone Kid," how Sennett once blew up his family's porch for a scene in a "Keystone Kops" film then rebuilt it for them, adding a new kitchen and bedroom.

In addition to Keystone Kops movies, young Coy appeared in films of such stars as Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Mary Pickford, Jackie Coogan and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. In 1925, he played the heroine's little brother in

the original film version of "Stella Dallas."

His last film was 1930's "Puttin' on the Ritz," but his daughter said he never adapted to talkies.

"He said none of the people involved in motion pictures liked the transition," Price recalled. "When they made silent movies everybody could laugh and joke and have a fun time on the set. When talkies came along, everybody had to be quiet."

Watson moved behind the camera, working at Acme News Pictures, which had been founded by his uncle, George Watson, the first full-time news photographer at the Los Angeles Times. Among young Watson's assignments was covering the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

He also took pictures for local newspapers and was later active in television news, filming for Los Angeles stations and for the early celebrity news program "Hollywood Reel."

Newport Jazz Festival looking for new sponsor

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—The Newport Jazz Festival is in the market for a new sponsor.

Jazz impresario George Wein, who founded the iconic festival in 1954, said Tuesday that the event's 24-year relationship with the JVC consumer electronics company has ended.

Wein said JVC told him it couldn't sponsor the festival again because of the recession.

"The company placed us at a level that no one can ever imagine and affected jazz and the jazz festival in a way that increased awareness of the art form and touched people around the

world," the 83-year-old Wein said.

Wein sold his production company in 2007, but announced earlier this month that he would step in and produce the show again after the new producer, Festival Network, ran into financial problems.

The festival is scheduled for Aug. 7-9. Wein said the show is fully booked and that the lineup will be announced next month.

The festival has attracted musicians including Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra.

Longtime neighbor launches charm offensive on daughter

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been friends with our next door neighbors "Henry" and "Flo" for many years. When our daughter graduated from college, I didn't think much about it when Henry gave her a bracelet. He said it was for her graduation.

After that, he began giving her other expensive items for birthdays and such. I know our daughter should not have accepted these gifts, but she thought Henry was just a nice old man. Then one day he actually asked her if she would like to go out with him some time. She told him it wouldn't be appropriate.

I feel uncomfortable around my neighbors now. Is it my business to tell Flo? I have a hunch that some of the items may have come from her jewelry box. What would you do?

DELICATE PROBLEM IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR DELICATE PROBLEM: I would instruct my daughter to box up all of the items "Harmless Henry" gave her and return them to him, because they might be stolen property—and were given with strings attached. And I would seriously consider mentioning to Flo to keep her eye on Henry, because he appears to be spending too much time in fantasyland.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a wedding etiquette question I hope you can help me with. My fiancé's best man, "Rocky," is his best friend since childhood. He's a great person, and I couldn't ask for a better friend for my future husband.

Here's the problem: Rocky happens to be a well-known celebrity. While many relatives and friends have met him, many more have not.

My fiancé and I are normal people with average lives, and we know many of our guests will be star-struck at the event. We want Rocky to enjoy the day like everyone else and not be hounded by fans wanting pictures or autographs. We have spoken with him about our concerns, and we're all on the same page here.

What is the best way to handle this? Should I tell people beforehand, or just let them show up at the wedding and see what happens? Your insight would be most appreciated.

BAFFLED BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR BRIDE-TO-BE: By all means let your guests know at the time you receive their RSVPs that there will be a celebrity present at your wedding—but that this is not a public appearance; he will be there as a member of the wedding party.

They should also be told that you and your fiancé would appreciate it if guests refrain from seeking autographs or pictures. If you tell them what kind of behavior you expect from them, there will be less of a mob scene.

P.S. If "Rocky" is approached, he should have the presence of mind to point out nicely that this is YOUR day, and he would prefer to keep it that way.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Who should greet whom first? Is it the guest walking into someone's home? Or should the host be the first to greet guest(s)?

What if you're the only one saying hello all the time?

MARISSA IN HIGHLAND MILLS, N.Y.

DEAR MARISSA: I would think that when the host opens the door, both parties would greet each other at the same time. However, if it didn't happen, I wouldn't let it stop me from offering a cheery hello and a smile. And neither should you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

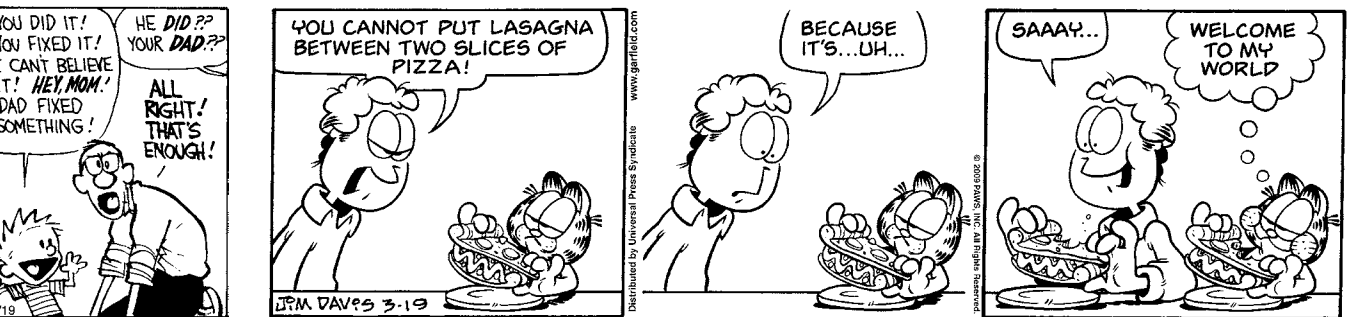
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

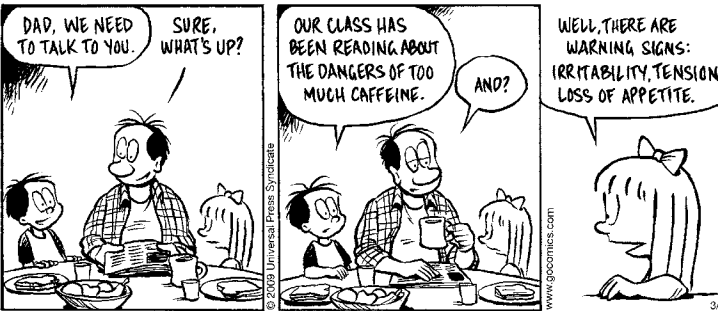
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Existed

4 A bit of a shock

8 Talon

12 Inventor Whitney

13 Do as you're told

14 Timber wolf

15 Crony

17 Off-dunked treat

18 Preceding

19 Actress' cameo role, maybe

21 Poltroon

24 Seek restitution

25 Okla-homa city

26 Round Table address

28 Cunning

32 Wire measures

34 Sailor

36 Baby carriage

37 Tea type

39 Rose, at first

DOWN

1 Film director

2 "The Greatest"

3 Pavement

4 Wags

5 Sapporo sash

6 Walesa of Poland

7 Youngsters

8 Seal

9 Traditional tales

10 First victim

11 58-Across' comment

16 Historic time

43 Liabilities

45 Astronaut

46 Huge, in ads

47 Persia, now

48 Gossip

49 Remedy

53 Regret

54 "What's up, —?"

55 Swelled head

41 Eggs (Pref.)

42 Started

44 Cue

46 Piano note

50 Greek consonants

51 Pennsylvania port

52 Civil War general

57 Verifiable

58 Pooch

59 Picnic invaders

60 Palmist, e.g.

61 Green, in a sense

20 Bad hairpiece

21 Too theatrical

22 Garfield's pal

23 Investi-gate

27 Plagiarize

29 Burr role

30 Stromboli spillage

31 Jannings of silents

33 Joins with a lead-tin alloy

35 Clear the tables

38 Conger, for one

40 Word with jacket or theater

43 Liabilities

45 Astronaut

46 Huge, in ads

47 Persia, now

48 Gossip

49 Remedy

53 Regret

54 "What's up, —?"

55 Swelled head

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	I	D	G	U	A	M	T	A	F	T
P	S	I	U	R	G	E	O	G	R	E
E	L	S	F	L	E	E	T	W	O	O
D	E	C	A	F	K	I	N			
F	A	R	R	P	I	V	O	T		
S	H	E	R	W	O	O	D	E	I	R
H	E	X	S	U	M	O	S	N	E	E
A	R	A	B	E	A	S	T	W	O	O
D	E	M	O	N	N	E	A	R		
W	A	S	R	Y	D	E	R			
H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D	E	A
E	R	I	E	A	R	N	O	A	S	S
N	E	E	D	P	O	E	M	L	E	T

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bruce Willis, 54; Glenn Close, 62; Ursula Andress, 73; Phyllis Newman, 76

Happy Birthday: You can now merge into the future with optimism if you let go of what has happened. Engage in the things you enjoy and build a base from which you can make the most of your skills and talents. Happiness is not far off but you have to make the right choices for yourself and stick to them once they are made. Your numbers are 6, 13, 18, 25, 29, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't give in to someone using underhanded tactics or bullying you around. You have to make decisions and follow through with your own plans. Once you establish your position, it will be difficult for others to treat you poorly. ☆☆

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Idle time will be the enemy and keeping busy, your friend. You will gain respect if you follow your dreams, regardless of what others say or do. Show your strength and courage. ☆☆☆☆

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust anyone with your cash. Donating or loaning friends money will cause a disruption in your relationship. Older relatives and children may pose a time-consuming and difficult problem for you. Give advice, not cash. ☆☆☆

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are in a great position even if you cannot see it. Don't get all wigged out about something you can do nothing about, especially when the end result will be to your advantage. You have to accept change if you want to get ahead. ☆☆☆

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll end up in a tight spot if you have promised too much to too many. Consider how to delegate some of the commitments you've made. Now is not the time to take on so much that you fall short of your most important goals. ☆☆☆

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Making some changes to your home or even to yourself personally will probably help you out where your relationships are concerned. However, if you overspend, the stress you encounter will work against you. Try to be cost-efficient with your plans. ☆☆☆☆

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems within a relationship will surface if the person you are with is jealous or threatened by your current friendships with others. Re-think whether or not you are being held back or protected by some of the people in your life. A change will do you good. ☆☆

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let issues going on in your personal life stifle your chances of getting ahead. A trip may be necessary but will cause some emotional turmoil. You may need to reassure someone of your feelings and devotion. ☆☆☆

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too quick to disagree or pick a fight. You will get more than you bargained for. You may feel you are doing the right thing but, in time, you will question the choices you make now. ☆☆☆

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let love cost you financially or emotion-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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ally. If someone is trying to push you, consider his or her motives, and your own. An unusual opportunity will open up doors, leading to a challenging, different type of work. ☆☆☆

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't fool yourself into thinking you can get something for nothing. If someone wants you to get involved in a project, find out what's in it for you before you jump in. Strive for equality both at home and at work. ☆☆☆

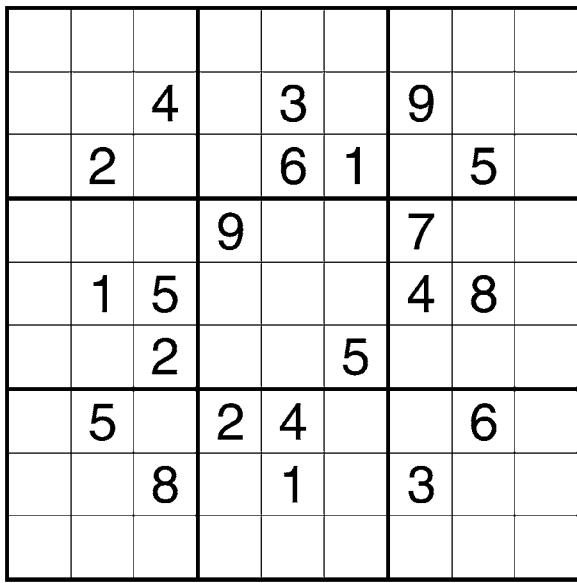
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Patience will be required if you don't want to make mistakes. Someone may be interested in you for the wrong reasons. Don't get caught up in a relationship that doesn't have potential. ☆☆☆

Birthday Baby: You are courageous and a mighty force to contend with. You are determined and eager to face any challenge placed before you.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

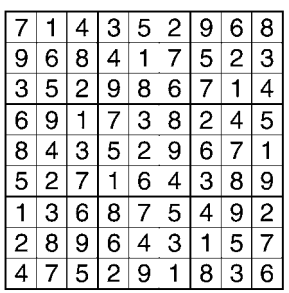
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/19

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RICARDO MONTALBAN (1920-2009) Solution: 6 letters

Y	B	S	R	O	E	V	I	F	I	A	W	A	H
O	T	A	P	T	H	G	I	N	K	P	E	D	R
N	I	S	C	I	G	P	O	J	O	S	E	D	U
I	R	D	A	K	N	N	H	T	O	E	N	V	M
T	O	A	A	N	I	A	N	I	S	A	O	L	A
A	N	J	K	R	Y	E	L	E	L	C	S	O	K
L	O	A	E	R	L	D	C	S	A	R	O	B	A
E	H	M	R	A	F	A	I	L	V	O	T	O	N
C	A	A	T	S	P	Y	K	I	D	S	R	D	S
N	L	I	R	S	S	H	C	T	K	S	O	E	I
A	U	C	A	A	A	T	M	A	R	K	S	L	W
L	L	A	T	N	O	R	O	T	C	A	R	M	E
A	L	N	S	R	A	N	I	T	A	R	U	A	L
B	A	T	T	L	E	G	R	O	U	N	D	R	E
F	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	O	C	I	X	E	M

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Across, Actor, Anita, Back, Balance, Battleground, Carmen, Dynasty, Fantasy Island, Flying, Georgiana, Hawaii Five-O, Honor, Jamaica, Jose, Khan, Knight, Latino, Laura, Lewis, Lobo Del Mar, Mark, Merino, Mexico, Nakamura, Nosotros, Pedro, Phil, Radio, Space Seed, Spinal, Spy Kids, Star Trek, Talent, Tallulah, Tattoo, Theater, Victor, Vocal, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Stradun

SALE: The logic of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, Inc.) for the first book order. All calls for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1150 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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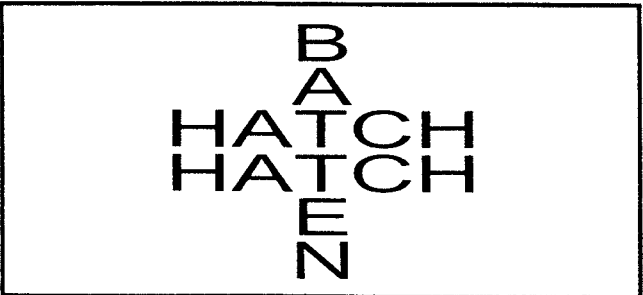
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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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235- NEWS

Team USA rallies to beat Puerto Rico, 6-5



MIAMI (AP)—Hobbled and humbled in the World Baseball Classic, Team USA is still swinging.

David Wright sliced a two-run single that capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning Tuesday night, and the injury-plagued Americans qualified for this weekend's semifinals with a 6-5 win over Puerto Rico.

Wright's hit with one out eliminated Puerto Rico.

"That situation is what you dream about when you're a kid," he said.

The Americans advanced to the next round at Dodger Stadium. It was an especially sweet victory after Saturday's humiliation against Puerto Rico that triggered the mercy rule when the Americans fell 10 runs behind, ending the game in the seventh inning.

"Getting a crack at a team that embarrassed us a few days earlier, to have the resiliency to bounce back in the ninth and steal one from them was pretty big," Wright said.

This time the teams played a full nine, and the Americans saved their best for last in the 3-hour, 54-minute marathon.

"They kept on the heat, and they didn't give up," Puerto Rican manager Jose Oquendo said.

Trailing 5-3, Team USA began its rally when Shane Victorino and Brian Roberts singled to the start the ninth against J.C. Romero (1-1). Derek Jeter flied out, Roberts stole second and Jimmy Rollins walked on a 3-2 pitch.

"We just had to string them together, and we were able to do that," Rollins said.

Fernando Cabrera came on to pitch, and he walked Kevin Youkilis to force in a run.

Wright then lined a 2-1 pitch just inside the right-field line, raising his fist when the ball dropped in. The New York Mets star called the hit the biggest of his career.

"You're talking about representing the United States of America," he said. "You've got that across the front of your chest. To be able to get that hit, that's got to be right up there at the top of the list."

Wright was mobbed by teammates near second base after two runs scored.

"You're celebrating a game," Youki-



United States' David Wright watches his two-run single in the ninth inning that gave the United States a 6-5 win over Puerto Rico in a World Baseball Classic game in Miami, Tuesday, March 17, 2009. AP

lis said. "You're celebrating a nation."

The rally came after the Americans stranded seven runners in scoring position in the first eight innings.

The WBC has some marketing to do, as Tuesday's modest crowd of 13,224 showed, and the tournament's version of the Yankees provided a boost by making the final four for the first time.

"We're taking this very seriously," Wright said. "This isn't an exhibition to us."

Team USA will play Venezuela in Miami's final game of round two Wednesday night to determine seedings for the semifinals.

The Americans will advance despite a recent wave of injuries that has sidelined infielders Dustin Pedroia and Chipper Jones and reliever Matt Lindstrom for the rest of the tournament. Left fielder Ryan Braun was also unavailable Tuesday with a sore right side, but he hopes to return this weekend.

Alex Rios homered and then singled

home the go-ahead run in the sixth for the Puerto Ricans. They totaled only five hits, but three walks led to runs, and U.S. starter Ted Lilly gave up three runs on two homers.

Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer for the Puerto Ricans, and they broke a 3-all tie in the sixth. Ivan Rodriguez led off with his third walk, took second on a surprise sacrifice by Carlos Beltran and scored on Rios' single.

Ramon Vazquez singled home the Puerto Ricans' final run in the ninth. Youkilis homered for Team USA.

"We were practically on the plane to Los Angeles," Delgado said. "When you have an opportunity like this to bring a championship to Puerto Rico, it's frustrating and emotional. But that's baseball."

Lilly gave up only two hits, but both were homers, and he departed after 3 1-3 innings with the score 3-all. Jonathan Broxton (1-0) earned the win despite allowing a run in the

ninth, his lone inning.

Puerto Rican starter Jonathan Sanchez lasted only 2 2-3 innings. He allowed five hits and three runs.

Nifty baserunning by Wright put Team USA on the scoreboard in the second. He singled, stole second and took third on a single by Mark DeRosa. When Brian McCann flied out to left field, Wright tagged up and scored by eluding the catcher's tag with a headfirst slide.

Victorino followed with a two-out RBI single to put the Americans ahead 2-1. Youkilis was 3-for-19 in the tournament before he homered with two out in the third, but Lilly failed to hold a 3-1 lead.

South Korea 4, Japan 1

At San Diego, Olympic champion South Korea is in contention for another big international championship.

South Korea qualified for the semifinals of the World Baseball Classic

by beating defending WBC champion Japan and its slumping star, Ichiro Suzuki, 4-1 on Tuesday night. Japan held the South Koreans to only four singles but also issued seven walks, including four in the eighth inning.

Backed by a boisterous cheering section at Petco Park and led by left-hander Bong Jung-keun, the South Koreans joined Venezuela and the United States in the semifinals at Dodger Stadium on Saturday.

The final semifinal spot will go to the winner of Wednesday night's game between Japan and Cuba. Japan beat Cuba 6-0 on Sunday behind Daisuke Matsuzaka's six brilliant innings, as well as in the championship game of the inaugural WBC in 2006 at Petco Park.

As they were in the Olympics, when they stunned mighty Cuba to win the gold medal and finish undefeated, the South Koreans have been far from flashy but simply steady.

They did show some emotion, too. Pumped up after helping turn a double play to end the fourth inning, second baseman Jeong Keun-woo ran off the diamond and then stopped just beyond the first-base line to tap gloves with his teammates.

South Korea jumped on Yu Darvish (1-1) to take a 3-0 lead in the first inning, with the first three batters reaching base and scoring. The first run scored on an error by shortstop Yasuyuki Kataoka before Lee Jin-young singled in two runs.

The South Koreans had only one hit after the first inning. Lee Bum-ho drew a bases-loaded walk in the eighth.

Bong (2-0) held Japan hitless until the fourth inning and allowed only three singles and one run in 5 1-3 innings. He walked three and struck out one. Lim Chang-yong got the last two outs for the save.

Darvish allowed two earned runs and four hits in five innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

Suzuki drove in Japan's only run on a grounder in the fifth. The Seattle Mariners' star went 0-for-4 and is hitting just .174 (4-for-23) in five games.

Japanese catcher Kenji Johjima of the Mariners was ejected by plate umpire Hunter Wendelstedt after taking a called third strike in the seventh.

The game drew an announced crowd of 15,332 at the 42,000-seat home of the San Diego Padres.

Astros thrilled about adding Pudge



LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—Astros players are raving about the pending addition of catcher Ivan

Rodriguez.

"He's a veteran guy that knows how to play the game," Carlos Lee said. "He's one of the greatest catchers to ever play the game."

Houston is closing in a \$1.5 million, one-year contract with the 13-time Gold Glove winner, a deal that likely won't be completed until he's finished playing for Puerto Rico in the World Baseball Classic.

The Astros needed a veteran catcher to replace Brad Ausmus, who became a free agent and signed with the Dodgers. Last year, the Astros used Ausmus, Humberto Quintero and J.R. Towles behind the plate.

"I don't have any feelings about it," said Quintero, who had been the projected starter. "I'm going to keep working hard. I can't do anything about it. I'm happy for him to be here and help the team."

Quintero tried to look at the positive side of the move.

"I'll learn something from him, like I learned from Brad last year," Quintero said. "Brad

taught me everything last year and I'm going to learn something different this year."

Rodriguez spent 12 seasons with the Rangers before going to Florida where he won a World Series in 2003. While the Astros need the defensive skills of Rodriguez, they certainly aren't overlooking what he can add on offense.

Rodriguez hit .276 with seven homers and 35 RBIs in 115 games last season with Detroit and the Yankees, who acquired him in July.

"I think it will help the team," Lee said. "I think he's going to create a better balance in the lineup. He's a guy who can hit in several different positions."

Having Pudge in Houston will be a treat for Astros right fielder Hunter Pence, who as a child watched Rodriguez play for the Rangers.

"He was one of my favorites growing up in Arlington," he said. "So I'm very excited about it. I watched a lot of Rangers games and I loved Pudge. He was an incredible catcher."

Several Astros have been impressed with Rodriguez's work in the WBC.

"He's in great shape and ready to go," Lee said. "He's hitting the ball good. I definitely think that was a terrific pickup for the team."

MLB BRIEFS

Phils' Hamels has no damage in pitching elbow

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Phillies ace Cole Hamels will return to camp after a team physician found no damage in his sore left elbow. General manager Ruben Amaro Jr. says Dr. Michael Ciccotti reported no structural damage to the joint after looking at the left-hander's pitching elbow Tuesday in Philadelphia. Last season's World Series MVP received an injection to relieve inflammation and should be cleared to throw by Thursday. Hamels' status for the April 5 opener against Atlanta is unclear. The team will continue to monitor his recovery when he returns to camp.

Hamels went 14-10 last season with a 3.09 ERA. He was 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA in five postseason starts.

Torre: Manny will play field sparingly upon return

PHOENIX (AP)—Dodger manager Joe Torre said it was a mistake to put Manny Ramirez in the outfield last weekend and that his star slugger will be restricted to hitting when he first returns to exhibition play. "I don't think he needs to play left field in every game he plays, no question," Torre said Tuesday. "And if I had it to do all over again, I would have DHed him

a few more days." Ramirez agreed to a \$45 million, two-year contract on March 4 and played in his first game nine days later, singling and walking twice as a designated hitter. He played the field Sunday against Colorado and felt a tight hamstring the first time he tried to run full out, chasing a Trot Tulowitzki double into the left-field corner. Ramirez, who won't play again until the soreness is completely gone, took part in the hitting portion of Tuesday morning's workout. His running was restricted to pool work and it will remain so for three or four more days.

Red Sox shortstop Lugo has knee surgery; out 3-4 weeks

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Red Sox shortstop Julio Lugo has undergone arthroscopic surgery in Boston on his right knee. The team's medical director, Dr. Thomas Gill, performed the procedure on Tuesday to repair a torn meniscus cartilage. Lugo is expected to be out for three to four weeks. Red Sox manager Terry Francona said Lugo probably will stay in Boston for five to seven days to recuperate and begin physical therapy before returning to spring training. Lugo played one inning in the field in Friday night's game against the New York Yankees before being taken out and sent for an MRI.

LeBron scores 43 points as Cavs beat Magic



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James dropped a long 3-pointer with 47.4 seconds left and added two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go as the Cleveland Cavaliers improved to 30-1 at home with a 97-93 win over the Orlando Magic on Tuesday night.

With Cleveland trailing 93-92 in a game soaked in playoff intensity, James, wearing green and white Nikes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, pulled up in front of Orlando's bench and coldly knocked down his 3. Magic center Dwight Howard was called for a 3-second violation on Orlando's next trip, giving the ball back to Cleveland.

James was then fouled while shooting and made his two free throws as the crowd serenaded him with chants of "MVP."

Rashard Lewis missed a 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left for the Magic, who came in with the Eastern Conference's best road record.

76ers 94, Lakers 93

At Los Angeles, Andre Iguodala scored 25 points, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, and the 76ers overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit.

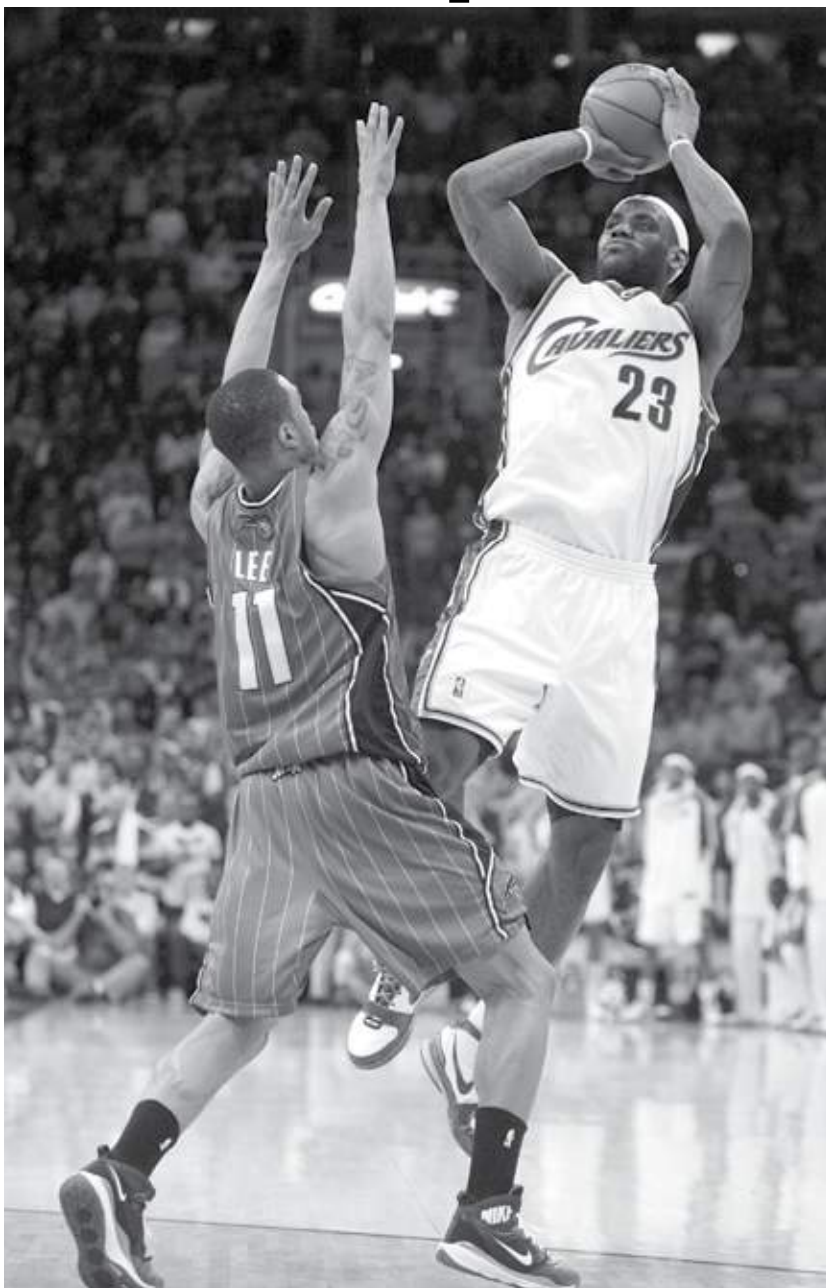
The Sixers were trailing 78-67 when interim coach Tony DiLeo put little-used forward Donyell Marshall into the game for the first time. The 14-year veteran drained a 3-pointer 19 seconds later, igniting a 20-2 blitz.

Still, the Lakers led 93-91 when Andre Miller inbounded to Iguodala, who was covered loosely by Ariza before connecting from the top of the key.

Hawks 119, Kings 97

At Atlanta, Al Horford had 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Josh Smith finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds in the Hawks' sixth straight victory.

Improving to 26-7 at home, the Hawks are 40-28 overall, their highest win total since 1997-98. They moved three games ahead of fifth-place Miami in the Eastern Conference standings.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) is fouled by Orlando Magic's Courtney Lee (11) late in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in Cleveland.

Kevin Martin scored 31 for Sacramento, which increased its losing streak to four games overall and on the road. The Kings have dropped 13 of 14 away from California, where they are 4-30 this season, and they are 0-27 against the East.

Mavericks 103, Pistons 101

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks finally took advantage of an injury-depleted team, leading the Detroit Pistons from start to finish. The Mavs won their eighth straight at home.

Richard Hamilton was a late scratch for Detroit because of an aggravated groin problem. With Rasheed Wallace (calf) and Allen Iverson (back) also out, the Pistons were missing a combined average of 48.5 points per game, and were out of whack from the start.

Detroit never led or even tied and was down by 14 going into the fourth quarter. In the final 18 seconds, Detroit got within 98-95, 100-97 and 101-99. The Pistons scored again as time expired to make the final score look as close as the last few minutes played out.

Nowitzki scored 30 points, Jason Terry had 18 and Dampier tied his season high with 16 points, and had 13 rebounds.

Spurs 93, Timberwolves 86

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 24 points to once again carry San Antonio against Minnesota, and the Spurs survived without Tim Duncan. Giving their All-Star forward the night off, the Spurs pushed their lead over Houston to two games for the No. 2 seed in the West. They did so behind Parker, who averaged 33 points in four wins over the Timberwolves this season.

One night after losing at Oklahoma City to one lottery-bound team, the Spurs rested Duncan against another. Duncan wanted to play, but coach Gregg Popovich said he wanted Duncan healthy for the playoffs more.

Sebastian Telfair and Kevin Love had 17 points apiece for Minnesota.

Jazz 103, Wizards 88

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored eight of his 12 points in the third quarter and Carlos Boozer finished with 13 points and 15 rebounds as the Jazz ended a three-game losing streak.

Ronnie Brewer scored 13 despite playing only the second and fourth quarters as punishment for oversleeping and missing Tuesday morning's shootaround. Kyle Korver added 15 points on his 28th birthday as seven

Utah players scored in double figures.

The Jazz had followed a 12-game winning streak by losing the last three of a five-game road trip and couldn't afford to slip up against the hapless Wizards.

Nick Young and Juan Dixon had 14 points each to lead Washington.

Bulls 127, Celtics 121

At Chicago, John Salmons tied a career-high with 38 points, and the Bulls rallied for another surprising victory despite 37 points from Paul Pierce.

The Celtics were trying to clinch a share of the Atlantic Division. They'll have to wait for that.

Coming off an 86-77 loss at Milwaukee on Sunday in which they set a season low for points scored, the Celtics set one for points allowed in another disappointing loss for a team trying to lock down home-court advantage in the playoffs.

Boston led by 13 in the third quarter, only to give it away, and Chicago surprised another playoff-bound team after beating New Orleans 97-79 on Saturday.

The Bulls are leading the race for the eighth playoff spot in the East by a half game over Milwaukee.

Warriors 127, Clippers 120

At Oakland, Calif., Monta Ellis matched his season high with 29 points, while Corey Maggette had 21.

Anthony Morrow added 20 points as the Warriors won their third in four games. Kellen Azubuike had 16 and Anthony Randolph 14.

Baron Davis scored 29 points in his first game in Oakland since opting out of his contract with the Warriors. He received a warm ovation before the game. Al Thornton had 25 points and nine rebounds but the Clippers lost their straight on the road.

Zach Randolph (20 points, 11 rebounds) and Marcus Camby (14 points, 11 rebounds) each recorded a double-double for the Clippers.



ENGLEWOOD, Colo.

(AP)—Josh McDaniels didn't get to bring his protégé with him from New England to Denver. He sure brought the Patriots' management philosophies to the Mile High City, though.

Aside from the intricate Patriots-style offense he's installing in place of the West Coast system that's been here since the 1990s, the Broncos' new coach is instilling a tenet prized by his mentor, Bill Belichick, who, for the sake of team unity, never panders to superstars.

It helps explain why McDaniels didn't just hang up the phone when teams called about a three-way swap that would have sent his best player packing and brought Matt Cassel over from New England before he landed in Kansas City instead.

It also shows why McDaniels hasn't acquiesced in the resulting feud with recalcitrant quarterback Jay Cutler, who now wants a trade.

One player McDaniels did get to bring with him to Denver is free agent wide receiver Jabar Gaffney, who said McDaniels is just like Belichick in so many ways both on the football field and in the front office.

Denver Broncos, Jay Cutler in holding pattern

"Just how he handles business, the way he goes about treating everybody the same. Not showing favoritism to any one player who is supposed to be I guess a 'star,'" Gaffney said. "They don't care. They want a team. A team to go out there and win. Because the individuals won't win."

Gaffney saw those philosophies firsthand when McDaniels was New England's offensive coordinator the last three years.

Even Tom Brady, a three-time Super Bowl winner, caught plenty of guff from McDaniels, Gaffney recounted.

"Yeah, I think Tom got (chewed out) just about as much as everybody else did. So, that's great. Once you see your quarterback get talked to, then you know Coach is showing no favoritism," Gaffney said.

"Everybody has to show up and play."

Which is what the Broncos want Cutler, the face of their franchise, to do.

McDaniels is still waiting for Cutler to call him so they can try to work things out one last time. Cutler is in Nashville, Tenn., waiting for a phone call telling him the Broncos have heeded his request for a trade that he made

Sunday through his agent, Bus Cook.

Just two weeks ago it was the other way around in this soap opera: Cutler throwing a fit because McDaniels tried to trade him.

With the standoff continuing Tuesday, recently-signed quarterback Chris Simms tossed around some footballs at the team's training facility when the Broncos went outside for their first running drills of the offseason.

"Yeah, we've been throwing the ball around a little bit," Gaffney said.

Simms, who has thrown just two passes since undergoing emergency surgery to remove his spleen after a game in 2006, signed a two-year, \$6 million free agent deal ostensibly to serve as Cutler's backup.

The only other quarterback on the roster is Darrell Hackney, whose next NFL pass will be his first.

In New England, Brady is notorious for his work ethic. But Gaffney said it wasn't just that Brady led by example.

"Everybody is held accountable," Gaffney said. "Tom did his thing, but I mean, whether he would have been there or not, everybody was going to go out there and work hard. Same thing that Josh kind of said in our team

meeting: 'Everybody that's here, let's go to work. We're a team. That deal (with Cutler) with get handled.'

"So, we'll love to have him here," Gaffney said. "I was looking forward to meeting him. That will happen all in its time."

Unless Cutler forces his way out of Denver.

Because the offseason program is voluntary, Cutler isn't being fined for his absence, although he's risking a \$100,000 bonus. For a man halfway through a \$48 million contract and who projects to make many millions more than that in his next contract, \$100,000 is small potatoes. Money's not going to get him back.

Cutler has said he'll show up for mandatory workouts next month if he's still a member of the Broncos. The team holds its first minicamp April 17-19, a week before the draft.

If the Broncos decide to deal Cutler in exchange for another established quarterback, it would make sense to get a trade done before that first minicamp so they can start installing their new offense.

Tampa Bay and Detroit were interested in acquiring Cutler before, so it

stands to reason that the Buccaneers and Lions would be at the top of the list of teams trying to pry him away now.

Other teams that might make good trade partners include the Cleveland Browns, Chicago Bears, Dallas Cowboys, Minnesota Vikings and Tennessee Titans.

If the relationship is deemed irreparable, McDaniels might seek a high draft pick to select a passer from the college ranks, which might mean Simms being their man in the interim.

If Cutler stays, McDaniels will want bygones to be bygones because the last thing he needs is a relationship like former Broncos coach Dan Reeves had with Hall of Famer John Elway, a nasty dispute that also grew out of trade talks behind the player's back and which eventually led to Reeves' firing.

The saga doesn't seem to be bothering Cutler's teammates.

"As far as I know, Jay is still on the team, so he's still the face of the team, I guess," pass-rusher Elvis Dumervil said. "And until another message comes across the screen, that's all I know."

The Broncos declined interview requests again Tuesday for McDaniels, the general manager and the owner. Cook didn't return a call from The Associated Press.

Onoue rules March edition of CWGA



CNMI Women's Golf Association members pose for a group shot after taking part in the March Monthly Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Shiori Onoue netted a 74 to win by three strokes the March edition of the CNMI Women's Golf Association monthly tournament held Saturday at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

The 74 was Onoue's highest total in three months but the win was her second title this year following her triumph in January, when she shot an even par 72 at the same course.

She also scored a 72 in February at the Coral Ocean Point but was only good for eighth place.

Onoue finished with a gross of 81 after submitting a 43 in the front and 38 at the back, both were the lowest scores and the 7-handicapper earned 15 points for topping this month's tournament.

Dolores Yamagishi closed out with a 77 as the 24-handicapper had a gross 101 (48 and 53) that earned her 14 points.

Another 24-handicapper, Sachiko Adachi, was third with a 78 after coming in with a gross 102 (50-52).

Three players netted 80 but

Terry Tudela came in fourth as the 18-handicapper had a gross of 98 (52-46), while 19-handicapper Grace Wang was fifth with her gross 99 (53-46) and 26-handicapper Bennet Seman was sixth with a gross of 106 (53-53).

Tudela was second last month with a 72.

Seman's performance this month was way below the 67 net score she carded en route to winning the February edition, which was a Valentine's Day present for her at the fairways.

Four players completed their day with net score of 81 that rounded out the Top 10.

They were one-handicapper Noriko Togawa (seventh with gross of 82, 44-38), 11-handicapper Chin Lin Wang (eighth, 92, 44-44), 14-handicapper Kimiko Abe (ninth, 95, 48-47), and 23-handicapper Terue Ukita (10th, 104, 57-47).

Togawa slipped from third in January to fourth in February.

Completing the list of players, who all earned a single point with their net scores in parenthesis, were Sherlyn Jones (82), Lorraine Babauta (83), Seo Ran Kyung (86), Margaret Tenorio (86), Yang A. Kyung (87), Yuko Togawa (89), Lourdes Kim (91), and Matilde Hocog (116).

SAME

From Page 28

competition in this level will still be tough.

"In Group 3, you have Iran, which has a history of fielding a strong team in every tournament. Also, Tajikistan is a pretty good team. I expect the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team to have a tough time in Group 3, but with good preparations and several tune-up tournaments, I believe they can pull it off and

return to Group 2," said Race in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Race is counting on Leong to carry most of the load for the Islanders.

"Last year, he played around 20 games in the pro circuit, so that's a lot of experience for him. I am confident he will perform well this year, but he needs help from the three other guys to bring the team back to Group 2," Race added.

Leong began his preparations for Davis Cup early this year by

competing in New Zealand. He placed fifth in New Zealand and then qualified for the \$15,000 ITF Pro Circuit event at Albany near Auckland.

The Pacific Oceania No. 1 player will join two more ITF Pro circuit events in New Zealand later this month before going to the U.S. and then Syria. A week before the Davis Cup tie, Jacobo will go to Brisbane to train with Langton.

Missing the team for the second straight year is West Nott, who is tied up with work in the

U.S. The Marshall Islands netter is the assistant coach of the USC women's team.

Next month's Asia/Oceania Davis Cup Group 3 tie will also feature teams from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Syria. The eight nations will be divided into two pools and will play in a round robin first round. The top two teams in each group will then move into the semis and the top two nations at the end of the week will be promoted to Group 2 for 2010.

IT&E

From Page 28

Slots on the tournament are limited so NMBF is encouraging interested participants to register before the event kicks off on March 28.

The men's A division is open only to five pairs, while the B division will have only eight teams each for the men's and women's. The women's C category will accept only four squads apiece for the women's and men's.

The men's A and men's and women's C divisions will have a double round-robin format, while the men's and women's B will be a single round robin affair. The Top 4 teams in each di-

vision will advance to the cross-over semifinals with the No. 1 squad facing the No. 4 team for the first finals ticket. The No. 2 and 3 squads will duel for the other finals seat.

NMBF through president Shirley Kim expressed its appreciation for IT&E's support to the tournament.

"We are thankful to our avid sponsors, especially IT&E, for their generosity in helping us run this event. "We are looking forward to another successful and fun tournament through the cooperation of NMBF members and supporters," Kim said.

Kim, along with NMBF vice president Edwin Montoya, treasurer Malou Mendoza, and board member Lito Mendoza, received

a \$800 check from IT&E yesterday in a brief donation ceremony at the telecommunication company's office in Susupe.

The donation, according to Rose Soledad, IT&E's regional controller for finance and accounting, shows the company's commitment in supporting various activities in the CNMI.

"Despite the crisis we are experiencing right now, IT&E is committed to help various organizations in the CNMI, such as the NMBF. We are committed in promoting sports, physical fitness, and camaraderie among members of the sports community," Soledad said.

The doubles tournament will run until April 19 with games to be played every Friday, Satur-

day, and Sunday only. Matches every Friday and Saturday will run from 6pm to 10pm, while Sunday's games will start from 2pm until 8pm.

Tournament director Macoi Aguda said this is the first time that NMBF is holding an exclusive doubles tournament.

"Our tournaments in the past were team events with players teaming up with different partners. Now, players will have only one partner and they will have more focus and time to prepare for their matches, and this will make the competition pretty exciting," Aguda said.

For more information, contact Aguda at 286-0009, Hapi Gabriel at 287-4274, and Kim at 287-6750.

NBA BRIEFS

Rockets forward Carl Landry wounded in shooting

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets forward Carl Landry is expected to miss one to three weeks after he was shot in the left leg early Tuesday while driving near his home.

The injury was minor, and the team said Landry was treated at a hospital and released. Landry, who also dislocated a finger on his left hand, also was examined by team doctor Tom Clanton. The shooting occurred about 2:30 a.m., a few hours after the Rockets returned from a game at New Orleans. Landry drove home after the team arrived about 12:30 a.m. Houston police said Landry was driving his sport utility vehicle southbound on a city street, when a northbound car swerved into his path and collided with his vehicle. Landry and the driver of the other vehicle made U-turns and the vehicles collided again and Landry's SUV hit a utility pole. Police spokesman Kase Smith said Landry got out of his SUV to inspect the damage, and was shot by one of the two occupants of the car. The suspects then fled the scene, while Landry ran to get help, police said. Smith originally said the incident occurred about 4 a.m., but said later that was the time authorities were notified. Smith did not know if Landry was the person who called police.

Nets G Harris (shoulder) sidelined indefinitely

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Nets All-Star guard Devin Harris will be sidelined indefinitely with a sprained left shoulder and strained deltoid muscle. The Nets say an MRI on Tuesday showed no broken bones. Harris is undergoing treatment and will be out at least a week and possibly longer. Harris was injured in a fall Sunday in Los Angeles after being fouled by the Clippers' Marcus Camby on a layup attempt. He missed Monday night's game in Denver. The Nets (28-39) have lost four straight games and have slipped two games behind Milwaukee and Chicago for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. New Jersey has 15 games to play. Harris is averaging a team-high 22.6 points, 7.0 assists and 1.8 steals

CAMACHO

From Page 28

second.

Ben Igitol tied the count on a RBI groundout by Jorro Jones in the sixth inning.

In the seventh and with two outs, Camacho advanced to first after he was hit by a pitch by Aztecs reliever Wally Emul Jr.

Camacho then stole second, advanced to third on a single by Ryan Ada, then suddenly dashed to home plate on Emul's second throw off Igitol for the decisive run as the Falcons won their third straight win.

After Igitol was struck out, Camacho again dominated from the mound.

He struck out leadoff batter JoeTogawa, who made two runs earlier against the Falcons' starting pitcher in the second and third.

Nick Cruz, who scored a run in the first, singled but Camacho struck out the next batter, Franklin Togawa.

Falcons catcher Ignacio Aldan Jr. then secured the win when he caught a pop-up.

The Aztecs, whose back-to-back victories was snapped, suffered their second loss in four games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

Portland	42	25	.627	1/2
Utah	42	26	.618	1
Minnesota	20	47	.299	22 1/2
Oklahoma City	19	48	.284	23 1/2

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	50	18	.735	-
Philadelphia	33	31	.516	15
New York	28	38	.424	21
New Jersey	28	39	.418	21
Toronto	24	44	.353	26.

Central Division

y-Cleveland	54	13	.806	-
Detroit	33	33	.500	20 1/2
Chicago	31	37	.456	23 1/2
Milwaukee	31	38	.449	24
Indiana	28	40	.412	26 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	49	18	.731	-
Atlanta	40	28	.588	9 1/2
Miami	36	30	.545	12 1/2
Charlotte	29	38	.433	20
Washington	16	52	.235	33 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	45	22	.672	-
Houston	44	25	.638	2
New Orleans	41	25	.621	3 1/2
Dallas	41	27	.603	4 1/2
Memphis	17	49	.258	27 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	43	25	.632	-
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Pacific Division

y-LA Lakers	53	13	.803	-
Phoenix	36	31	.537	17 1/2
Golden State	23	43	.348	30
LA Clippers	16	50	.242	37
Sacramento	14	53	.209	39 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-division champ

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 94, LA Lakers 93
Atlanta 119, Sacramento 97
Dallas 103, Detroit 101
San Antonio 93, Minnesota 86
Utah 103, Washington 88
Chicago 127, Boston 121
Golden State 127, LA Clippers 120

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BIG LEAGUE STANDING

Tanapag Falcons	3	1
D-9ers	2	1
Team Aztecs	2	2
Hustlers	1	2
Ol'Aces	1	2
IT & E	0	3

Patriots regain lead, beat Red Sox

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



The Patriots survived a last ditch rally by the Red Sox to win, 11-8, and regain the Junior Division lead last Saturday in the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

But the Patriots needed three relievers after starting pitcher Christian Mizner retired to come home with the win.

Mizner was sent to first for third baseman Jared Sablan, who was sent back to third for first baseman Brian Camacho.

Camacho then was relieved by shortstop Jeremy Rabauliman, who finished the game on the mound for the three-time Major Division champions.

The Patriots established a 10-2 lead that they held on after four complete innings.

The Red Sox threatened with a run by A.J. Lizama in the fifth and exploded with five in the sixth from Joseph Atalig, Jesse DL. Guerrero, Patrick Aguon, and Thomas Reyes to chop the deficit to two.

Henry Rabauliman, the Junior Division leader in batting percentage with his .571, then proved his worth by hitting a double for the Patriots' 11th run of the day and their fifth win in six outings.

Rabauliman also made a run in the third inning.

Lizama led the Red Sox with three runs, one each in the first, fifth, and sixth.

The Red Sox absorbed their fourth



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Patriots, who just graduated from the majors after three consecutive titles, pose with their new uniforms before a game in the Junior Division where they are currently on top with a 5-1 record.

defeat after six games.

D-9ers 8, Ol'Aces 7

In another interesting game, D-9ers exacted vengeance against their first round conqueror after edging out Ol'Aces, 8-7.

Right fielder Nick Jones, who substi-

tuted Richard Saturno, scored the decisive run in the bottom of the sixth.

Early in the game, the D-9ers set the tone with two runs from the first and five more in the second for a 7-2 lead.

Ol'Aces moved to within one, 6-7, with four runs in the third by Shane

Deleon Guerrero, Lamarc Iguel, Jacob Flores, and T.J. Sablan.

They tied the count, 7-all, on a run by Frankie Camacho via passed ball before D-9ers' Jones put his stamp on the game, which was aided by an RBI flyout by Sid Nepael.

Budweiser caging playoffs moved



The start of the playoff round in the 2009 BAN-MI/Budweiser Basketball League has been moved from March 20 to March 30 to give teams a week to rest.

All seven teams will advance to the playoffs with the CNMI Nationals assured of the No. 1 seeding and a bye in the first round. The Nationals finished the double round-robin regular season with a 9-3 record.

Currently in second place is the Ol'Aces (7-4), followed by IT&E (7-4), Diamond Fixers (6-5), Quichoch Law Office (5-7), Docomo (5-7), and the Runnin' Rebels (2-10).

The last game in the regular season was played last night with the Ol'Aces battling Diamond Auto Care. Results of the match were unavailable at press time.

If the Ol'Aces win, they will take the No. 2 spot and will duel the Runnin' Rebels in Game 2 of the start of the playoffs on March 30 at 8pm. Game 1 will have the No. 4 team squaring off with the No. 5 squad at 6:30pm.

The playoffs will continue on April 1 and will feature the No. 3 team colliding with the No. 6 squad.

The Nationals will begin their finals bid also on April Fool's against the winner of the No. 4 vs. No. 5 match.

The playoff round will have a double-elimination format.

The championship game is set for April 13. If the team in the loser's bracket wins the first game in the finals, there will be a deciding match on March 15. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

PIC Tennis registration deadline set

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Deadline for registration to the upcoming 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships had been set on the next two Fridays—March 20 for the singles and March 27 for the doubles.

PIC sports manager Lindsey Sosovec said three players have so far submitted entry forms.

Entry fee is \$15 for singles events and \$20 per team for the doubles.

Preparations have already started two weeks ago for the tennis championships to be held in two separate playing dates at the PIC hard surface courts.

The singles' matches in men, women, and juniors divisions will be played March 27-30 while the doubles matches in men, women, juniors, and mixed will be on April 3-5.

The singles categories will include three men's divisions (open, 4.0, and 3.0), two women's divisions (open and 4.0), two boys divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), and two girls divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under).

The doubles will consist of three men's divisions (open, 4.0, and 3.0), two women's divisions (open and 4.0), two boys divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), two girls divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), and two mixed divisions (open and 4.0).

Cash prizes are guaranteed for the



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Defending men's open singles champion Ji Hoon Heo in action in last year's Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships at the PIC tennis courts.

champion and runner-up in both the singles and doubles open divisions.

All the other winners and finalists will also receive prizes from sponsors that include PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., including Gatorade and Pepsi, Island Apparel, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and Rota Resort.

All participants will be provided with waterpark passes to help them relax between matches.

Interested players can get entry

forms at the PIC Information Desk, Tennis Center, and American Memorial Park tennis courts from 9am to 6pm daily.

Sosovec can be contacted at 235-6231 ext. 5147 for more information or email her at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com.

Last year, the CNMI's No. 1 youth netter Ji Hoon Heo completed his title defense after a 6-3, 6-3 win over Peter Loyola in the men's open finals. His win came at the heels of his

come-from-behind 9-7 win over Jeff Race in the previous month's Cocoanut Classic finals.

In the girls' 13-and-under division finals, Thecel Minor survived the gallant stand of 8-year-old Negahr Rastguiry in a 6-2, 6-0 win.

Matty Buenaventura won the women's 4.0 title after a 6-2, 6-1 victory against Lydia Tan. Buenaventura downed Kisses Aquino, 6-0, 6-2, while Tan defeated Ellen Uy, 6-0, 6-2 to arrange a finals showdown.

Ranking points at stake in NMITA tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be holding three important tournaments that will award ranking points and determine the composition of the CNMI Junior Team to the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament.

The three tournaments are this month's Pacific Islands Club's sponsored event, the NMITA Junior Championships in April, and the DFS-backed tournament in May.

"We will be awarding ranking points in these tournaments and whoever makes it to the Top 4 may end up playing in the NPQ," said CNMI coach Jeff Race.

In the NPQ, players will aim for slots on the North Pacific Team that will compete in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

Boys' 18-and-under player Ji Hoon Heo and girls' 14-and-under's Thea Minor will no longer need the ranking points, as they had already secured seats

in the POJC after a Final Four finish in the tournament last year. Minor placed fourth in the POJC, while Heo was runner-up to Vanuatu's Lorenzo Pineda.

When Guam hosted the NPQ last year, the CNMI claimed seven of the 12 slots on the North team. Included



Race

on the list were boys' 14-and-under players Rafael Jones and Christian Miller and Minor, and 18-and-under's James Camacho, Benjie Decena, Dina Jones, and Mayuko Arriola. Guam earned three slots, while the Federated States of Micronesia had one. Palau also competed in the NPQ, but failed to nail a spot on the team.

Race is hoping that the CNMI will still get two slots in the boys' 14-and-under and at least one each from the girls and boys' 18-and-under (excluding Heo's slot).

Guam will still be hosting this year's NPQ with the tournament set to run from June 15 to 19.

The schedules of other qualifiers are as follows: Lautoka, Fiji for the West (May 4 to 8) and American, Samoa for the East (July 13 to 17).

The POJC in Fiji will run from Aug. 17 to 21.

Patriots regain lead, beat Red Sox



Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Patriots survived a last ditch rally by the Red Sox to win, 11-8, and regain the Junior Division lead on Saturday in the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Team USA rallies to beat Puerto Rico, 6-5

Hobbled and humbled in the World Baseball Classic, Team USA is still swinging. David Wright sliced a two-run single that capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning Tuesday night.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Staal wins two medals in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal brought home two medals from the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2009 to leave an impressive mark in his first and last appearance in the short course tournament held over the weekend at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.

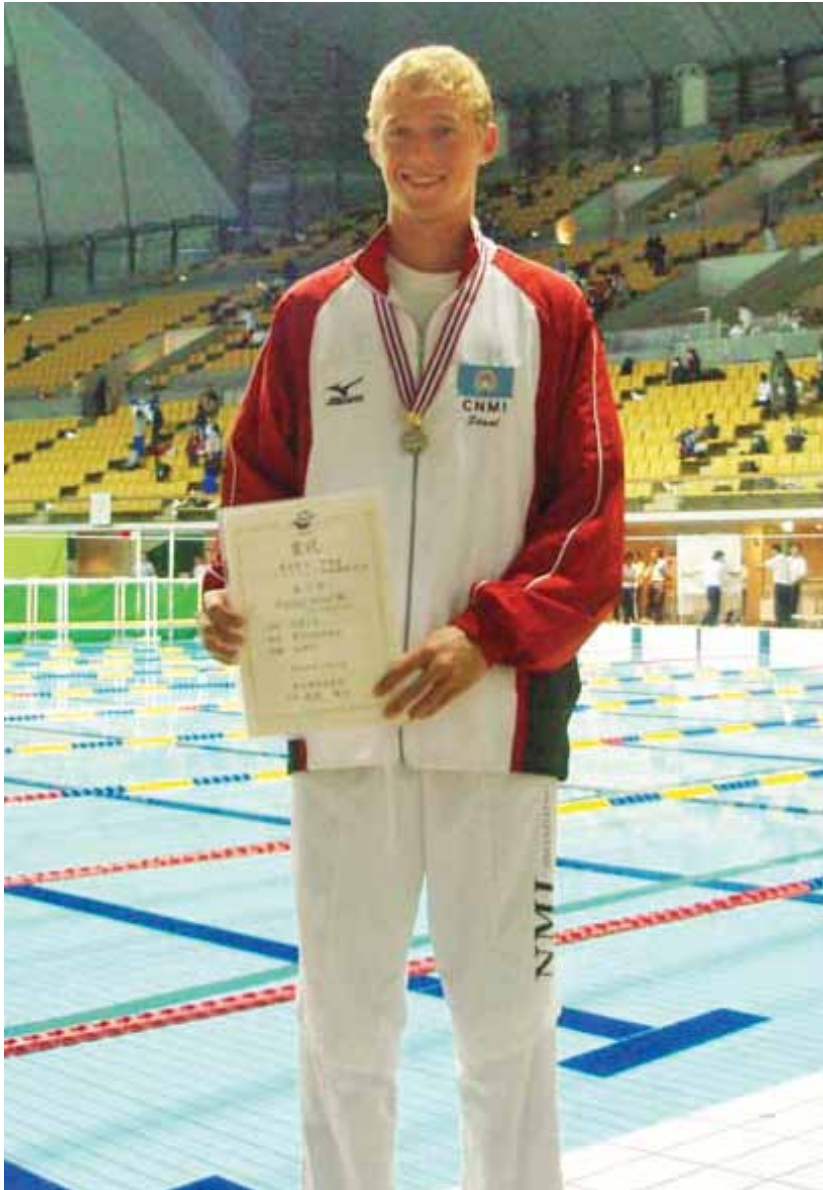
Staal timed in at 32.66 seconds in the 50m breaststroke race to win the silver medal in the 13 to 14 age group. Japan's Toshiya Tanaka won the gold medal with his time of 31.72 seconds. Staal's time in the short course in To-



kyo is better than his record in the long course (35.33 seconds).

The 14-year-old CNMI swimmer gained his second medal in the 50m freestyle event after placing third in the finals. Staal clocked in at 25.63 seconds, which again eclipsed his long course mark of 25.68 seconds. Japan's Takuya Shimada (25.42 seconds) took the gold medal in the 50m freestyle swim, while Hiroyuki Ishikawa (25.48 seconds) notched a silver.

"The challenge for Kai was to win medals in the Tokyo sprint and he responded. This meet really suits him because Kai is a sprinter," said Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura.



"Tsunami Saipan is proud of Kai's achievement in his first and last appearance in the Tokyo sprint," Kimura added.

Staal competed in three events in Tokyo and also advanced to the 100m individual medley finals, finishing seventh with his time of 1:04.75.

Joining Staal in Tokyo was Kensuke Kimura, who also participated in three events. Kensuke finished 23rd among 81 swimmers in the boys' 11 to 12 100m IM with his preliminary time of 1:14.35. In the 50m breaststroke, Kensuke was in 26th spot among 81 participants after clocking in at 38.85 seconds. In the 50m freestyle, Kensuke posted 31.11 seconds for 56th place among 141 swimmers.

"For Kensuke, this meet was a little difficult because he is a long distance swimmer. However, the sprint race was a good test for him. In long or middle distance events, it is also important to have strong sprint power," Hiro said.

Kensuke, who also joined last year's junior tournament, is only 12 years old and is still eligible for next year's Tokyo sprint. Staal would not be able to make a return trip in the tournament in 2010, as the Tokyo event is only for 14-and-under swimmers. But Hiro is hoping to bring more Tsunami Saipan swimmers in the short course tournament next year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kai Staal poses inside the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium with the medals he won in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2009.

Camacho lifts Falcons to 8-7 win over Aztecs



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Vincent Camacho of the Tanapag Falcons is at first base after he was hit by a pitch in the top of the seventh inning on his way to scoring the decisive run in a 8-7 win over Team Aztecs Tuesday night in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Vincent Camacho lifted the Tanapag Falcons to an 8-7 win over the Aztecs Tuesday night in the Junior League of the 2009 Saipan Little League Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Camacho—who starred on the mound and stole a base in the top of the seventh inning—leads the league in pitching with a perfect 0.00 ERA with no error in 6.2 innings.

Team Aztecs squandered a 7-3 lead after three full innings as the Falcons rallied aided by two runs from Camacho and starting pitcher Vincent Cabrera.

Before the start of the bottom fourth, Camacho, who was at shortstop, was summoned to the mound replacing Cabrera, who moved to third base.

Then, the press box announcer went on to inform the spectators that Camacho is currently on top of the list of the pitching leaders.

As if getting the cue from that announcement, Camacho showed his worth by not allowing any runner to reach the home plate and the Falcons scored one more run in the fifth courtesy of Ignacio Aldan Jr., his second in the game after scoring in the top of

See CAMACHO on Page 26

Same faces for Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team was named on Monday with non-playing captain Cyrille Mainguy bringing back this year the four players who competed in the 2008 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group 2.

The Solomon Islands' Michael Leong, Samoa's Juan Langton, Vanuatu's Cyril Jacobe, and the Cook Islands' Brett Baudinet are returning for duty for the Islanders, but this time they will be participating in Group 3.

After staying in Group 2 from 2005 to 2008, Pacific Oceania will play in Group 3 this year following the Islanders' losses against Kuwait in the first round, 1-4, and Oman in the relegation tie, 2-3, last year.

The Asia/Oceania Group 3 competition will be held in Syria from April 15 to 19 on the hardcourt at the Al Hamad-neih Tennis Complex in Aleppo, which is north of Syria and is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world.

CNMI coach Jeff Race, who was Pacific Oceania's non-playing captain from 2005 to 2007, said although the Islanders dropped to Group 3,

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Baudinet



Langton



Leong



Jacobe

IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament set next week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Badminton Federation will be holding its first tournament for 2009 next week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Dubbed as the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament, the event will feature competitions in five divisions, namely the men's A, men's and women's B, and men's and women's C.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMBF president Shirley Kim, second left, receives a check from IT&E's Tess Masga during the donation ceremony yesterday in the Susupe office of the telecommunications company. Also in the photo are NMBF officials and other IT&E employees.